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U.K. Blocks Paris-Led Bid To Tighten TV Quotas

Once Waged With U.S., Dispute Now Becomes An Intra-Europe Feud

By Tom Buerk

BRUSSELS — A French-driven attempt to tighten European quotas on television programming was torpedoed by a British official on Wednesday, transforming a cultural battle waged up until now with America into a civil war within the European Union bureaucracy.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner and a long-time opponent of TV quotas, blocked a proposal to toughen the Union's broadcasting directive by invoking a rarely used procedural rule that permits EU commissioners to request a one-week postponement of any item of business.

The actual delay is likely to be far longer, however. Many officials, including Sir Leon, believe the European Commission cannot take any significant decisions after Wednesday because it will be merely a caretaker until a new team led by Jacques Santer, the Luxembourg prime minister, takes office on Jan. 25.

Even then, the new commission will find it difficult to quickly resuscitate a piece of legislation that has been deadlocked for months. Although supported by cultural champions in France and Spain, the proposal has been opposed by free-market forces in Britain and Germany and by Europe's leading associations of employers and commercial broadcasters, who have said quotas would only harm European industry.

The result was a major setback for France, which initiated broadcasting quotas in the late 1980s in an effort to shore up its film and TV programming industry and has made passage of the European legislation one of the main objectives of its six-month EU presidency that began this week.

French officials vowed to renew their efforts to get a new directive launched as soon as possible, and supporters in the commission said Sir Leon's use of a procedural block indicated he did not have the votes to stop it. But aides to Martin Bangemann, the industry commissioner who also opposes the directive, said the proposal would need major changes before being revived.

The delay eased American fears that a conference of the Group of Seven industrial countries on the global information superhighway, to be held in Brussels on Feb. 25 and 26, might turn into a trans-Atlantic brawl over quotas and cultural imperialism.

"We're basically pleased," said Stuart Eizenstat, the U.S. delegate to the Union. But supporters of the proposal said Mr. Eizenstat had gone too far by telephoning several commissioners on Tuesday to urge a delay. "There are limits," a commission official said.

The proposal would have toughened a 1989 EU directive by closing a loophole that has allowed some broadcasters, mainly satellite channels based in Britain like BSkyB and TNT, to ignore a requirement to show at least 51 percent European programming. The proposal also would have applied quotas only to fiction and documentaries, making it impossible for stations to fill quotas with cheap talk and game shows while buying Hollywood dramas.

Although the commissioner for culture, João de Deus Pinheiro, proposed giving broadcasters the option of meeting an investment quota rather than a programming quota, opponents said that did not give broadcasters enough flexibility.

Even more important for the future, the proposed directive would have covered planned new services, such as video-on-demand and home shopping, although they would have been exempt from quotas.

An aide to Mr. Bangemann said the broad scope of the proposal would deter investment in information-based services, such as teleshopping and electronic publishing, an area that offers more potential for growth than conventional broadcasting and where European companies have a greater market share.

The meeting Wednesday also was a rebuff to Jacques Delors, the outgoing commission president who was pushing the proposal strongly.



Newt Gingrich, the first Republican speaker of the House in 40 years, addressing Congress on Wednesday.

Republican Vow: A 'Different Day'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a passage of power beneath the Capitol dome, Congress convened under Republican control Wednesday for the first time in four decades.

"It's a different day," exulted the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, while the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, pushed an ambitious opening-day reform agenda toward passage.

Architect of the November election sweep in the House, Mr. Gingrich said Republicans should be "judged on whether or not our ideas are better for America." The Republican program for

the 104th Congress ran from lower taxes to less government, from tougher antidotes to crime to welfare reform and a balanced budget amendment.

"This is a huge, complicated job," the Georgia Republican said to a chamber packed with lawmakers and their families.

Republicans chanted "Newt! Newt!" and Democrats applauded politely when the Georgian ascended the podium where a long line of Democratic speakers had presided. His wife and mother watched from the gallery above. An occasional baby's cry floated up from the House floor as lawmakers invited family

members to sit with them for opening day ceremonies.

Mr. Dole got the Senate's new Republican majority under way with the traditional swearing-in of newly elected lawmakers. He pledged "real cuts in government spending" to finance the Republican tax-cut program. "We will roll back federal programs, laws and regulations from A to Z," he said. "From Amtrak to zoological studies." (Page 5)

Mr. Dole also walked across the Capitol to witness Mr. Gingrich's elevation. It was a gesture that underscored the de-

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Base Words in Lofty Places About Mrs. Clinton

By Karen de Witt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The same word that once got Barbara Bush into trouble had House Speaker Newt Gingrich gnashing his teeth on Wednesday, condemning the media and probably wish-

ing his mother would stick to boasting about his childhood antics.

Instead, in an interview with Connie Chung to be broadcast Thursday on CBS, Mr. Gingrich's mother, Kathleen Gingrich, let slip that her son once called Hillary Rodham Clinton "a bitch."

Mr. Gingrich was visibly angry when asked Wednesday about the interview. "I think it's despicable that Connie Chung would ask that question of my mother, or anybody else's mother," Mr. Gingrich

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Clinton Consults 'Get-Up-and-Go' Gurus

By Ann Devroy
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Not content to seek help from politicians and pollsters in repairing his faltering presidency, President Bill Clinton has expanded his quest for answers to two of the nation's leading motivational and personal-development gurus.

White House officials confirmed that Mr. Clinton spent much of Friday at Camp David with Stephen R. Covey, author of the best-selling book on virtu-

ous management, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," and with Anthony Robbins, a personal-development expert whose books, videotapes, TV shows and lectures offer his views of how to reach personal peak performance.

Mr. Covey is also a favorite of Newt Gingrich, the new speaker of the House of Representatives. He co-wrote one of the "readings" for the college course the Georgia Republican teaches, a chapter on "personal strength in American culture."

Mark Gearan, acting White House press secretary, said Tuesday the sessions were part of a broad series of meetings Mr. Clinton has had with politicians, business leaders, presidential historians, communicators and other groups on what he called "the issues of the day."

He said the sessions were arranged by Mr. Clinton, were private and were not set up by White House staff.

Mr. Covey declined to discuss the ses-

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Lethal Rice Cakes: A Very Sticky Start to '95 in Japan

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

TOKYO — For their first meal of the new year, millions of Japanese ate a soup containing sticky rice cakes that is intended to get the year off on the right foot.

But 83-year-old Sadakatsu Ishikawa, instead of insuring his health in 1995, choked to death on the cakes.

For hundreds of years, Japanese people have been celebrating the New Year by eating an extremely chewy type of rice cake known as *mochi*. And for just as long, some people have been dying because the *mochi* is so sticky it gets stuck in the throat.

In what has now become a bizarre addition to Japan's many New Year's traditions, newspapers here each year report the toll from *mochi*-eating, much as newspapers in the United States will publish the number of holiday traffic deaths.

On New Year's Day, 11 people in Japan choked to death on holiday foods, according to the Kyodo news

agency, which reported the case of Mr. Ishikawa. Most of the fatalities appeared to involve elderly people eating *mochi*, although one 84-year-old elderly woman in Yokohama choked on a pork fillet, Kyodo reported.

Last year, during the New Year's holiday, which lasts until Jan. 3 in Japan, ambulances in Tokyo alone responded to 28 *mochi* emergencies, according to the Tokyo Fire Department. Four of the victims died.

The fire department is on special alert during the New Year's holiday, and not only for fires. "It is extremely dangerous" and "could be lethal," the department says of *mochi* in a circular distributed to ambulances and neighborhood associations.

Despite such warnings, no one in Japan seriously considers giving up *mochi*. It is, after all, supposed to usher in a good year. "It is a celebration to eat it," said Fumio Sawaguchi, the Tokyo Fire Department captain in charge of medical training.

In a culture in which rice has a religious significance,

mochi is considered a symbol of happiness, to be eaten at festivals, weddings, the erection of a house and other occasions.

On a culinary level, the appeal of *mochi* might be hard for a first-timer to fathom. Besides having a rubbery consistency, it has almost no taste.

Mochi has been specially eaten at New Year's since the Heian Period, 794-1185. It is customarily eaten as the first meal of the new year in a soup known as *zoni*, with vegetables and other ingredients that vary depending on the region. Two large circular slabs of *mochi* are also stacked one on top of the other and placed in a home's entry way as a New Year's decoration.

The process of making *mochi* is also filled with tradition and, like eating it, carries own risks.

First, a special kind of sticky rice used mainly for *mochi* is steamed for about 40 minutes. Then the rice is

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Isolated, Yeltsin Calls Off Bombing

His Aides Cite Rising Rate of Civilian Deaths

By Alessandra Stanley

New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Under mounting criticism at home and abroad for indiscriminate shelling and bombing of the rebel republic of Chechnya, President Boris N. Yeltsin announced Wednesday that he had ordered the bombing of the capital, Grozny, to stop at midnight.

As Russian ground troops continued their struggle to capture Grozny, the president's press office stated the decision was "guided by the desire to prevent an increase in the number of victims among the civilian population."

But another factor may have been that aerial strikes endanger Russian soldiers and are largely ineffective over a fog-covered city. The order did not apply to the use of artillery or rocket-launchers that continued to pound the city.

Already isolated at home, Mr. Yeltsin faces growing pressure from the United States and Europe over a war that has taken hundreds of civilian lives without yet subduing the Chechen rebels.

Moscow said Wednesday that it would not discuss its military assault against the breakaway republic with any foreign governments, including the United States.

The U.S. State Department said that Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher planned to raise the question of Chechnya at his next meeting with the Russian foreign minister, Andrei V. Kozyrev, later this month. France, Britain and Germany have also raised concerns about the conflict, as have many Islamic countries that are concerned about the fate of the mostly Muslim population of Chechnya.

In Moscow on Wednesday, Nikolai Spassky, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said that "Russia is not prepared to discuss the situation in its rebel province of Chechnya with foreign countries."

Referring to Mr. Christopher's intentions, he said, "Moscow believes that the 'Chechen crisis' will not be discussed."

When Mr. Yeltsin launched the attack on Dec. 11th, Washington at first described the conflict as an internal Russian affair. But after reports of indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas in Grozny grew, Washington followed the lead of France and Britain and began voicing concern about the loss of innocent lives, as well as war's political cost to Mr. Yeltsin's government.

In a call that resonated particularly loudly in Russia, the well-known human rights activist Sergei Kovalev, who has spent more than three weeks in Grozny to protest the Russian attack, at times running from bunker to bunker, announced Wednesday that he was returning to Moscow.

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Europeans Press Harder For Mediation

By William Drozdiak

Washington Post Service

PARIS — European governments escalated pressure Wednesday on Russia to accept outside mediation and pursue a peaceful solution to the secessionist revolt in Chechnya before it spirals out of control and jeopardizes hopes for a new security order on the continent.

While acknowledging that the Chechnya rebellion is an internal Russian affair that proscribes any hint of foreign intervention, Western officials expressed alarm over the brutality of Russia's attempt to crush the province's independence drive and the contradictions emanating from Moscow that suggest President Boris N. Yeltsin may not have full control over the military.

Although Mr. Yeltsin announced Wednesday that he had ordered a halt to bombing raids against Chechnya as of midnight, European officials said it was unclear whether his words would be heeded because Moscow's pronouncements about the fighting have been so much at odds with the facts on the ground in recent days.

France's foreign minister, Alain Juppé, whose nation took over the presidency of the 15-nation European Union this month, criticized Mr. Yeltsin for using excessive force and demanded that Russia should live up to international promises to protect human rights. He noted that Mr. Yeltsin had reaffirmed a code of good conduct only last month at a summit meeting of the 53-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In Germany, a leading member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Party warned that the fighting could spread beyond the volatile Caucasus and embroil others in ways that could inflict serious damage to Russia's relations with the West.

"A turning point in Russia's development since the end of communism can no longer be ruled out," said Karl Lamers, the party's chief foreign policy spokesman. "This also applies to the relations that this huge, difficult and potentially dangerous country has with the West and its immediate neighbors."

Until recent days, the United States and its European allies had sympathized with Mr. Yeltsin's determination to halt Chechnya's secession because of fears that it could set off an unraveling of Russia by encouraging other rebellions.

But the heavy toll in civilian casualties caused by bombing raids on residential areas and fierce street battles as

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Iran Near to Having Bomb, U.S. and Israel Conclude

By Chris Hedges

New York Times Service

TEL AVIV — Several senior American and Israeli officials have reached a consensus that Iran is much closer to producing nuclear weapons than previously thought. The new disclosures put the Iranians less than five years away from having an atomic bomb, an estimate that almost cuts in half the previous forecasts.

"The date by which Iran will have nuclear weapons is no longer 10 years from now," a senior Western official said. "We are now very close. There are only a small number of years left. If the Iranians maintain this intensive effort to get everything they need they could have all their components in two years, then it will just be a matter of technology and research. If Iran is not interrupted in this program by some foreign power, it will have the device in four or less than five years."

The reassessment of Iran's nuclear capability is now described by Israeli officials as the most serious threat facing Israel. And senior Israeli officials say that if the

program is not halted they will be forced to consider attacking Iran's nuclear reactors, as they did in 1981 when Israeli warplanes bombed Iraqi nuclear reactors.

Such a confrontation, American officials say, could erode much of the gains made since the current peace agreements were signed between Israel and the Palestinians. And it could also see Iran step up its public, as well as covert, campaign against Israel and Jewish targets around the world.

"When we look at the future and ask ourselves what is the biggest problem we will face in the next decade," said a senior Israeli military official, "Iran's nuclear bomb is at the top of the list."

The acceleration of the nuclear program also represents a defeat for the Clinton administration's drive to halt the spread of nuclear technology to Iran. Iran, like Iraq, was to have been isolated by severe sanctions in a policy described by Clinton

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Kiosk

Thumbs Down On Peso Plan

Mexican financial markets handed President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León overwhelmingly negative reviews on Wednesday following his announcement of an emergency plan to combat the effects of the peso devaluation.

The Mexican stock market dropped to an eight-month low before regaining most of the ground lost while the peso weakened further. (Page 9)

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Reopening Croatia's Highway of Hope (and of Terror)

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

NOVSKA, Croatia — On a map, this is a town like any other in Croatia. But it lies on a tense though unrecognized border between government-controlled Croatia and the one-third of the country that has been occupied by rebel Serbs for more than three years.

It is one of the most volatile borders in Europe, so the recent reopening of a major highway through this town is being watched with a mixture of hope and apprehension.

Along the roadside, the ruins of villages from which the Serbs chased Croatian families three years ago are stark reminders of the brutality of the "ethnic cleansing" that was practiced here. A gas station near Nova Gradiška, at the other end of the Serbian-controlled portion of the road, is a twisted wreck of steel and concrete. Road signs are peppered with bullet holes.

No one knows when the Croatian

government, which has grown increasingly frustrated by the long occupation, will launch an offensive to try to retake the Serbian-controlled region.

Such an offensive, which could reignite the 1991 war of independence fought by Croatia against the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav Federation, seemed imminent as recently as November, when the Croatian Army canceled leaves and moved elite units toward the border. Diplomats in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, say that only intense behind-the-scenes pressure from Washington led Croatian leaders to abandon their plans for an offensive.

Until recently, negotiations between the Croatian government and the Serbs brought virtually no progress. The Serbs, backed by their brethren in Bosnia and in Serbia itself, have proclaimed the territory they hold to be an independent country, which they call the Republic of Serbian Krajina, and they vow never to submit to Croatian rule again.

these forces were not signatories to the cease-fire.

A UN spokesman, Alexander Ivanko, said the United Nations now wanted to broker a separate, local cease-fire for the Bihać pocket.

In the meantime, UN troops

in the Bihać pocket were running out of fuel as Croatian Serbs and renegade Muslims halted an 11-truck convoy carrying fuel and cold-weather supplies, a UN spokesman said.

The first joint cease-fire commissions in Bosnia met on Tuesday, but Mr. Ivanko said that bad feeling between the combatants after 33 months of war posed a serious problem.

"Both sides tried to back away from an agreement reached on the deployment of liaison officers," he said.

A key provision of the UN-brokered accord calls for UN

But after the Americans twisted Croatian leaders' arms, and to the surprise of many people throughout the Balkans, leaders of the Croatian government and the breakaway Krajina region reached an accord that could help normalize lives on both sides of the border.

Under the accord, water and electricity lines that have been cut since 1991 are to be restored and work is to begin on repairing an oil pipeline that runs from the Croatian port of Rijeka through the Krajina region and on toward Hungary, Ukraine and Russia.

In addition, the accord provided for reopening what was once Yugoslavia's most important road, the one connecting what were its two largest cities, Zagreb and Belgrade.

The road used to be called the Brotherhood and Unity Highway, but in recent years it has come to represent the gulf of hatred that divides Serbs and Croats. There was heavy fighting along the road during the 1991 Serb

revolt, and each day that it remained closed made the prospect of peace seem dimmer.

When the road reopened on Dec. 23, only a few carloads of journalists and a handful of trucks carrying worried refugees ventured to test the goodwill of the Serbs who continue to guard it. But traffic has grown steadily, and now more than 2,000 vehicles are using it each day.

A ride along the 25-kilometer stretch that runs through Krajina is still very unlike a ride on a normal road. Signs at Novska and Nova Gradiška, the towns on either end of the stretch, still proclaim "République de Serbian Krajina," and Serbian flags stand checkpoints along the way.

White armored personnel carriers carrying UN peacekeepers look down from bridges and guard exits to make sure that travelers do not leave the road and venture into other parts of Krajina that are still strictly off-limits to outsiders.

Many of the Serbs who patrol the road are evidently unhappy to see it open.

"We have asked them repeatedly to take their flags down," said Captain Kamal Polkrel, a Nepalese officer who is among the UN soldiers assigned to watch the road. "They say, 'Why should we? This is our land.'"

The question of whose land this really is remains to be settled. Croatians consider it theirs, and most of the outside world agrees. But Serbs vow never to return it.

An agreement to resolve this conflict, if it can be reached at all, is months or years away. In the meantime, diplomats say the accord that reopened the road is the most important step taken so far to defuse the conflict.

But many leading Croatian politicians and military officers remain impatient with the Serbian presence and warn that they will not wait indefinitely for a negotiated solution.

WORLD BRIEFS

Simpson Drops Challenge to DNA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's attorneys on Tuesday abandoned their challenge to the prosecution's DNA evidence. The development came during a hearing before Judge Lance A. Ito. After weeks of signaling that a DNA admissibility hearing would be a costly waste of time, the defense filed notice that it was withdrawing its challenge of the scientific evidence. Mr. Simpson told the court he understood the ramifications of dropping the challenge. "I have full confidence in my lawyers," he said.

With no weapon and no witnesses to the crime, genetic evidence is the heart of the case against Mr. Simpson. Prosecutors hope to tie Mr. Simpson to the murder scene by showing genetic matches between Mr. Simpson's blood and drops found near the bodies of the two victims, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman.

Scalfaro Illness Halts Italian Talks

ROME (Reuters) — Hopes for a swift end to Italy's political crisis fell Wednesday when illness forced President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to halt his search for a prime minister and former President Francesco Cossiga indicated he was not a candidate. Mr. Scalfaro, 76, had been due to meet delegations from all the main political parties on Wednesday in a second round of talks aimed at ending the crisis set off by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's resignation on Dec. 22.

But the president's office said the consultations had been suspended because Mr. Scalfaro was suffering from influenza. Newspapers on Wednesday suggested that Mr. Cossiga had emerged as a favorite to lead a broad-based transitional government but Mr. Cossiga made it known he did not want the job.

U.K. to End Funding for Nazi Probe

LONDON (AP) — Britain will end state funding of an investigation into hundreds of possible Nazi war criminals living in the country, officials said Wednesday.

Although prosecutors said they were considering whether to indict seven men, the move raised new uncertainties about whether any of the aging suspects will be brought to court.

The Home Office, which set up the specialist war crimes unit of police and historians three years ago, said the £5 million (\$7.8 million) in funding would end March 31.

Baltic Ferry Death Settlements Set

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Families of the more than 900 people killed in the Estonia ferry disaster have been offered cash settlements of up to \$135,000 each, an insurance company announced Wednesday. The ferry sank Sept. 28 during a storm in the Baltic Sea.

The Norwegian insurance company Skuld, which covered the ship, on Tuesday offered relatives out-of-court settlements ranging from \$5,400 to \$135,000, the Swedish news agency TT reported. Each of the 137 people who survived the disaster were offered \$20,000 each.

The insurance company said families and survivors have until the end of March to decide whether to accept or take the case to court.

Jospin, French Socialist, Will Run

PARIS (NYT) — Former Education Minister Lionel Jospin, 57, made a bid on Wednesday for the Socialist candidacy in France's upcoming presidential elections, but the latest polls said the conservative prime minister, Edouard Balladur, remained the strong favorite to succeed President François Mitterrand.

The Socialist Party lost its preferred candidate last month when Jacques Delors decided not to run after he stepped down late this month as head of the European Union's Executive Commission.

Sudan Foils Hijacking by a Soldier

KHARTOUM, Sudan (Reuters) — Sudanese special forces arrested a soldier on Wednesday who said he had hijacked an aircraft carrying 36 people because it was the only way he could afford to get his wife to Cairo, the official Sudanese news agency SUNA reported.

Announcing the end of the hijacking in Port Sudan, SUNA said the couple, who said wanted to go to Cairo for personal reasons but could not afford the fare, had been detained by special forces who had flown from Khartoum. It was not clear if the couple surrendered or if the special forces stormed the Fokker aircraft.

SUNA said the man, Mohammed Jubara Mohammed, was a 37-year-old corporal. He and his wife demanded that the captain fly to Cairo, but he persuaded them that the plane did not have enough fuel and put down at the Red Sea port.

Romanian Oil Slick Nears Hungary

BUCHAREST (AFP) — A huge oil leak has caused major pollution in a river in the Bihar area in northwest Romania and is threatening to spill into Hungarian territory, local officials said Wednesday.

The leak, discovered New Year's Eve and since been stopped, spread a slick over 40 square kilometers (16 square miles) in and around the Barcau River area near the Hungarian border, said fonei Ungur, the local administrator in Bihar.

He said the extent of environmental damage was not immediately clear, but officials from the Hungarian Environmental Ministry were to hold an emergency meeting with Romanian authorities Wednesday to discuss containing the pollution.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Channel Trains Run Round the Clock

LONDON (Reuters) — Le Shuttle, the new train taking passengers and cars through the Channel Tunnel between Britain and France, has started round-the-clock service, the tunnel operator, Eurotunnel, said Wednesday.

Le Shuttle offered 40 departures on Monday compared with 26 a day during the introductory service begun on Dec. 22. Trains leave every hour in each direction between 0700 and 2300 GMT and every two hours between 2300 and 0700.

There were more than 12,000 reservations for the 35-minute trip between Folkstone, England, and Calais, France, during the last two weeks of December. Eurotunnel said.

Lufthansa has cut trans-Atlantic fares to New York and Boston by as much as 33 percent in response to competitive pressure. Round-trip fares on flights originating in Frankfurt from Jan. 5 through March 31 will be \$398 via Boston and \$448 via New York. Tickets must be booked by Jan. 13. (Bloomberg)

A tropical storm with peak winds of 200 kilometers per hour (125 miles per hour) swept through the French Polynesia archipelago, injuring two people and destroying more than 150 houses, civil defense officials in Papeete said.

Israel has threatened to ban all flights by Russian airlines to Tel Aviv because Russian authorities refused to allow Israeli security agents to carry arms at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport, a spokesman for the Israeli Ministry of Transportation said. On Wednesday, El Al Israel Airlines canceled one flight to Moscow and one to St. Petersburg. (Reuters)

EUROPEAN TOPICS

Austrian Customs Is Caught Up In a Case of EU Growing Pains

AUSTRIA'S accession Sunday to the European Union will bring hardships to some border areas, more so than the arrival of Sweden or Finland.

Most immediately affected will be Austrian customs officials, who will be transferred from the borders with Italy and Germany, now fellow EU members, to less affluent surroundings, along the borders with Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Some customs workers are grumbling about having to leave regions so sedate and prosperous that "even the foxes and hares say good night to each other," as one man told the daily *Die Welt* of Hamburg.

Before, since prices for many staple items and consumer goods were relatively high in Austria, store owners in Germany and Italy profited from Austrians' cross-border shopping expeditions. When Salzburg shoppers bought butter or kitchen implements in Freilassing, just across the frontier, cashiers routinely asked, "Will you be paying in marks or schillings?"

In Italy, too, the days are over when Austrians, even in stifling midsummer heat, would pull on three pairs of jeans and three thick woolen sweaters to avoid paying customs duties on their return home.

On New Year's Eve, with Austria's accession bours away, two towns on either side of the German-Austrian border, Sibrabach and Brauna, joined in celebration. Blue European flags with golden stars waved as the two mayors together raised the barrier on the bridge over the Inn River.

Around Europe

While other parts of Europe were joining together, part of Belgium was coming apart. The bilingual province of Brabant, a last vestige of a unitary Belgium, officially broke up Monday into a Flemish Brabant, to the north, and a French-speaking Brabant, to the south.

The old province surrounded the Brussels region, which retains its special bilingual status. But French-speakers living outside of Brussels managed to elect five representatives to the new 75-seat Flemish Brabant regional council.

It may be an uneasy cohabitation — the five French-speakers were booted as they arrived at the council Monday, and though they took the oath in Dutch, an angry member of the Flemish nationalist Vlaams Blok stomped out in protest.

An 85-year-old Bavarian man called the police on a recent night after his wife, also 85, locked herself in their bedroom with her young lover, the police said.

The man asked the police to expel his wife's friend because he was too frail to do it himself.

When the police told him they could not intervene in domestic disputes, the retiree retorted: "I shall just have to be unfaithful myself, then."

Brian Knowlton

Amid Growing Tension, Israelis Kill 4 Palestinians

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Undercover Israeli security forces shot and killed four Palestinians in the West Bank village of Beit Lafia on Wednesday night, continuing a surge in violence that has accompanied a grim stage of stalemate in negotiations over Palestinian self-rule.

The four deaths followed a second day of tension and gunfire in the autonomous Gaza Strip, where Israeli soldiers crossed the border Monday night and killed three Palestinian policemen who the Israelis said had fired on them. In another exchange of fire Wednesday at the Erez border crossing, Israeli soldiers wounded four more Palestinians, including two policemen, after reporting

that the Palestinians again had shot at an Israeli position.

Nine Palestinians have died since Sunday in clashes with the Israeli Army. In each case, the army said the Palestinians opened fire first.

The new violence came as Israeli and Palestinian leaders broke up what sides described as a largely fruitless round of talks in Cairo.

"As one who has taken part in many meetings like this, I can say that this was a perhaps especially difficult meeting," said the Israeli environmental minister, Yossi Sarid.

"There is something wrong happening," Nabil Abu Idris, an adviser to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said by telephone Wednesday night. "It

seems there are some people on both sides who are not interested in the peace process. It doesn't help the atmosphere of confidence which should prevail."

Preliminary reports of the Beit Lafia clash fit a pattern of stepped-up underground warfare in the occupied West Bank between Israeli security forces and Palestinian radicals. The deadly game of cat and mouse has featured ambushes by both sides and a shadowy struggle between Israeli forces seeking to recruit Palestinian collaborators and radicals who seek to kill them.

In the Wednesday night battle, Israeli military sources said an undercover army unit encountered four men in a stolen Subaru in the center of Beit Lafia, 13 kilometers (8 miles) west of Ramallah. According to their account, one of the men fired on the soldiers and the soldiers returned fire, killing all four.

One of the dead men, according to an Israeli officer who declined to be named, was a member of Georges Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Israel stepped up its hunt for radicals

after a surge in terror attacks inside Israel beginning in October. Israeli politicians, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, have strongly suggested that the army and secret police have broad authority to open fire.

The four men killed on Wednesday night, according to one officer, were suspected of "engaging in seeking out collaborators and killing them."

THE AMERICAS /

Clinton Got No Hint of Foster Slide To Suicide

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton told the Whitewater independent counsel's staff last spring that he did not realize that his longtime friend Vincent W. Foster Jr., the deputy White House counsel, was deeply depressed in the days before his suicide in July 1993 and did not know that Mr. Foster had been working on Whitewater tax issues.

In a deposition given to lawyers from the independent counsel's office on June 12, Mr. Clinton said he could recall few details about legal work that Mr. Foster had done for him while he was governor of Arkansas or after he had reached the White House.

Portions of the deposition were made public along with the Senate Banking Committee's report on Whitewater hearings last August. The committee agreed with an earlier conclusion by the former independent counsel, Robert B. Fiske Jr., that Mr. Foster had taken his own life.

Mr. Clinton was questioned about Mr. Foster's death and about other matters related to the Whitewater investigation. Only the discussion about Mr. Foster was made public.

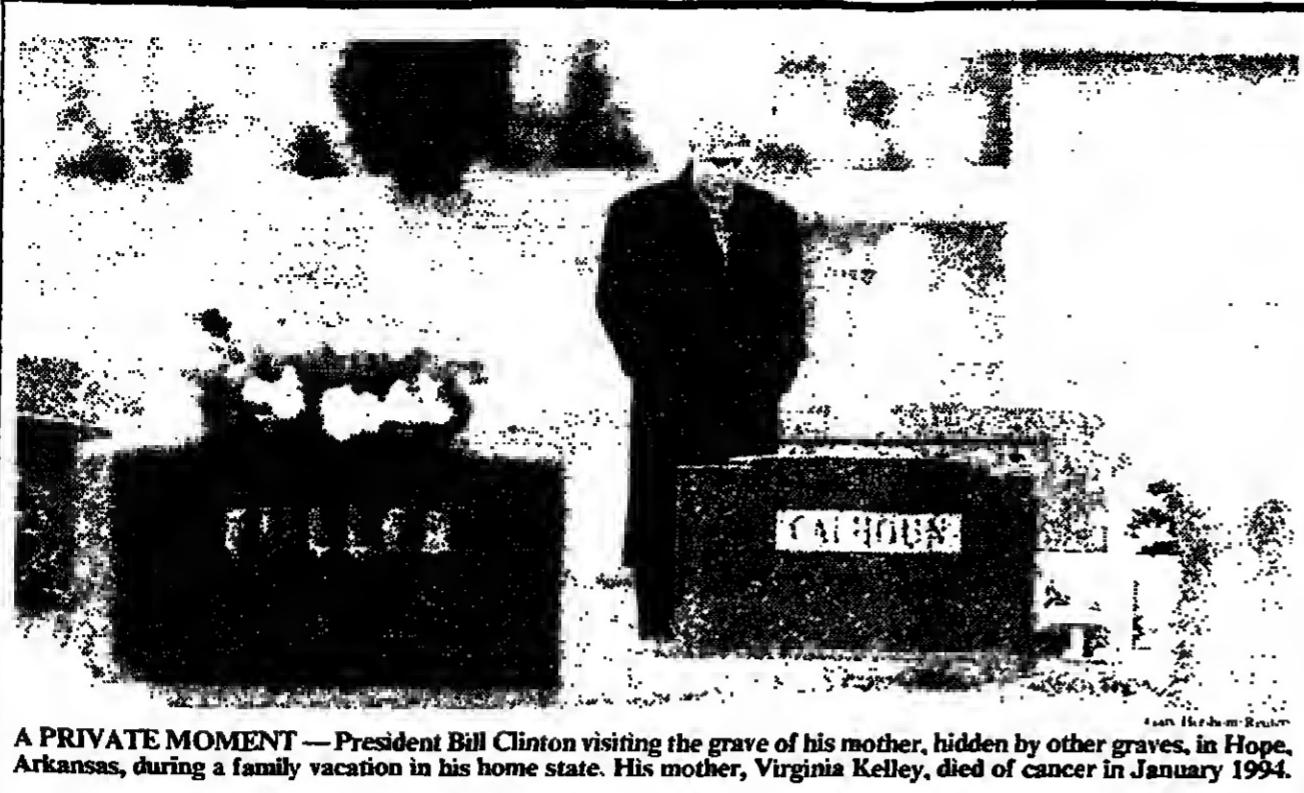
Mr. Fiske asked the president if Mr. Foster had expressed any concern about his job or his personal life.

"The answer to your question is no," Mr. Clinton replied. "I wouldn't characterize it that way. I knew he felt badly that he had been personally criticized in the Wall Street Journal."

"And I knew," the president added, "that he was a perfectionist who was concerned at the bad publicity the administration had gotten over two or three issues relating to the organization of the White House."

Mr. Clinton recounted a telephone conversation he initiated the night before Mr. Foster's death. The two agreed to meet a few days later to talk about White House "organizational" matters.

Mr. Foster, the president said, "didn't seem unduly distressed."



A PRIVATE MOMENT — President Bill Clinton visiting the grave of his mother, hidden by other graves, in Hope, Arkansas, during a family vacation in his home state. His mother, Virginia Kelley, died of cancer in January 1994.

POLITICAL NOTES

Shaky Seat for Feinstein

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate will consider a challenge to the seating of Senator Dianne Feinstein, but the California Democrat was still sworn in Wednesday with other newly elected members.

Miss Feinstein defeated her Republican opponent, Michael Huffington, last November in the most expensive Senate race in U.S. history. State election officials put her final margin of victory at 165,562 votes, or 1.9 percent of the 8.5 million cast.

But Mr. Huffington has refused to concede and has challenged the results, alleging widespread voting fraud.

Miss Feinstein was seated "without prejudice" meaning that she may function while the Republican-controlled Senate resolves the election challenge.

The Constitution gives the Senate ultimate authority in deciding the outcome.

Mr. Huffington spent a record \$29 million on his losing campaign. His and Mrs. Feinstein's combined expenditures topped \$41.4 million, a record. (AP)

Saved: 2 Chaplains' Jobs

WASHINGTON — Chalk one up for the lobbyists of the Lord. Congress opened Wednesday the same way it has opened since the First Continental Congress met in 1774 — with a chaplain's prayer.

The new Republican majority, eager to trim government spending, was re-

portedly considering eliminating the two full-time chaplains, whose salaries, plus those of their assistants, cost taxpayers \$289,000 a year.

But the Republicans on Tuesday confirmed the Reverend James David Ford, the House chaplain since 1979, as their nominee to continue ministering to the members.

Representative Jim Nussle of Iowa, who led the House transition team, acknowledged, however, that shortly after the Nov. 8 election there was "some discussion" of eliminating the chaplains' jobs. But that presented the Republicans with a symbolic dilemma: whether cutting the budget was more important than the symbol of maintaining religious faith, particularly in a new Congress elected with much help from grass-roots conservative Christians. (NYT)

Clinton Woos CIA Prospect

WASHINGTON — Deputy Defense Secretary John M. Deutch has discussed the job of CIA director with Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Deutch recommended other candidates for the post but did not rule out taking it himself, according to sources inside and outside government.

Last Wednesday, when R. James Woolsey Jr. announced he was resigning as CIA director, Mr. Deutch was one of the first persons mentioned by observers in the media and government as a possible successor.

In their phone conversation, Mr. Deutch told Mr. Clinton last week he

was not seeking the job, according to the sources familiar with the matter.

Meanwhile, the rumor mills have ground full circle on Mr. Deutch's prospects. On Tuesday, a source close to Mr. Deutch said, "A week ago he would have turned it down, but now he is thinking about it again. You can't tell what someone will do when a president romances him." (WP)

TV Job for Ex-Press Aide?

WASHINGTON — A spokesman for the cable network CNBC has confirmed that it has resumed talks with the former White House press secretary, Dee Dee Myers, to host "Equal Time," a weekday talk show. Ms. Myers would co-host the show with Mary Matalin, a chief organizer of the unsuccessful re-election campaign of President George Bush.

While some industry sources believe the deal has been made, the network spokesman said of Ms. Myers, "She said she would get back to us after the holidays and she has not." (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Former Representative Vin Weber, a Minnesota Republican, on whether his friend, former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, will run for president: "He's genuinely uncertain. Part of him really wants to do it, but part of him also enjoys the private life. The major question in his mind is: Is his message going to be the right message in 1996?" (NYT)

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Republicans Alleged Misconduct And Lies by Clinton Officials

By Susan Schmidt

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans, in a report on last summer's Whitewater hearings, have charged that high-ranking Clinton administration officials engaged in "serious misconduct and malfeasance" and that former Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger C. Altman "deliberately lied" to Congress.

After consulting with Banking Committee leaders, Mr. Starr has renewed an investigation into the White House-Treasury contacts, including a review of the hearing testimony. Mr. Fiske, his predecessor, conducted a three-month grand jury probe last spring and determined then there was "insufficient evidence" to bring any charges of obstruction of justice or false statements.

Republicans said they would "withhold judgment" on legal issues surrounding the matter and leave them to Kenneth W. Starr, an independent counsel, to address in his probe of the Whiteman water.

In back-to-back news conferences, Mr. D'Amato and another senior banking committee member, Senator Christopher J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, each put his own highly partisan spin on the committee's conclusions. The Republicans said findings were billed as "additional views" to those contained in the larger 300-page Whitewater report prepared by the ongoing majority Democrats.

The Democrats' report chronicled many instances of incomplete and contradictory testimony offered by White House and Treasury officials, but it concluded there were no laws or ethical standards that "clearly prohibited" discussions that took place between them about the government's investigation of a failed savings and loan with ties to the Clintons.

Ahner Mikva, the White House counsel, said in a statement: "After an exhaustive inquiry and lengthy hearings, the Senate Banking Committee has affirmed what former independent counsel Robert Fiske, a White House internal review, of the Office of Government Ethics and the House Banking Committee, all previously concluded: The White House violated no law and breached no

garden for the truth could occur."

Mr. Dodd disavowed such praise and said he was disappointed that Republicans appeared to "want to drag these issues around endlessly." He said he feared the continuing Whitewater hearings would become "a political circus."

"If this Congress turns into a squabble over politics" and efforts to "damage the president," he warned, "the people who are engineering that activity are going to pay the price."

The Republican report described Mr. Altman's actions as "an aggravated case of lying to Congress."

"Altman falsely claimed not to know of the Treasury-White House contacts in the fall of 1993," said the report, when then-general counsel of the Treasury, Jean Hanson, told the White House the Resolution Trust Corp. had named the president and Mrs. Clinton as potential witnesses in a criminal referral it was preparing to send to the Justice Department.

Herald Tribune

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Open Secret Trips Up A Beijing Journalist Reports on Who Runs China, And How, Brings 6-Year Term

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

BEIJING — Gao Yu, a respected Chinese journalist who was tried in secret and sentenced to six years in prison last November, is being punished for reporting a sensitive but open secret about who rules China, court documents from the case against her show.

The 50-year-old journalist, arrested on Oct. 2, 1993, as she prepared to leave China for an academic year at Columbia University in New York, wrote a series of articles earlier that year demonstrating that:

• President Jiang Zemin, who also serves as general secretary of the Communist Party and commander in chief of the armed forces, still does not have ultimate power as long as other senior comrades, such as Deng Xiaoping, are alive.

• The National People's Congress remains a parliamentary rubber stamp for decisions made by the party's Central Committee and then handed down to legislators for implementation.

The documents from Ms. Gao's case in the Beijing Intermediate People's Court were made available by Chinese seeking to publicize what they feel is the vindictive nature of the verdict.

Though there have been unconfirmed reports that Ms. Gao's articles in the Hong Kong-based Mirror magazine were the cause of her arrest, the court documents make that clear for the first time and cite the offending material.

Thus, they provide the clearest understanding to date of how Ms. Gao's dispatches irritated the leadership in Beijing and led to her arrest and the secret proceedings that followed.

The severe treatment of Ms. Gao reflects the ongoing sensitivity of China's leaders to any breach of the secrecy of their inner circle, especially one that highlights the unwritten laws that are governing the political succession under Way here.

The case against Ms. Gao is the latest in a series of criminal convictions of journalists in China, or of their sources, where the invocation of state secrecy laws by government prosecutors has been used to transform political or economic news reporting into criminal behavior punishable by long prison terms.

Ms. Gao's conviction was announced Nov. 10, and her appeal petition was rejected Christmas week. Ms. Gao is said to believe that her past as-

sociation with Wang Juntao, one of the accused "black hands" behind the Tiananmen uprising of 1989, stoked the prosecutorial enthusiasm that led to her conviction.

Mr. Wang was released on medical parole from a 13-year prison sentence last April at the request of President Bill Clinton.

Undisputed in Ms. Gao's case is that much of the sensitive information she published came from a senior Communist Party official, Gao Chao, 36, who has been sentenced to 13 years in prison for his alleged part in leaking "secrets." The Gaos are not related.

The court papers allege that Ms. Gao visited the party official on Feb. 13, 1993.

In Gao Chao's office, Gao Yu read two secret documents and took notes from speeches by Jiang Zemin, Admiral Liu Huaiqing and General Zhang Zhen, the two vice chairman of Central Military Commission. The commission supervises China's armed forces. The speeches were for delivery to a Central Military Commission meeting in March 1993.

In addition, the documents allege, "Gao Yu spied out state secrets" on other matters, including "China's government structural reform, civil servants system, wage system reform and a government reshuffle" announced at the National People's Congress session in March 1993.

Writing in the April 1993 edition of the Mirror, Ms. Gao, using the pen name Liu Jiang, said that a few days before the convening of the National People's Congress the previous month, "all the contents to be discussed" were first "decided upon at a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee."

Ms. Gao wrote that "General Secretary Jiang Zemin made an important speech" at that meeting, in which he made a "special point" about reshuffling top party posts. "He said the personnel arrangement was decided upon after consultation with senior comrades, especially after hearing the opinion of Deng Xiaoping," Ms. Gao wrote.

Then, the article said he continued, "It is hoped the Central Committee members will do a good job of having the party's goal realized" at the National People's Congress session.

Several Chinese and Western officials said that while this revelation may seem innocuous, it is the kind of disclosure that has angered top Communist Party leaders in the past.

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CHOKE: Sticky New Year's Start

Continued from Page 1
thing anymore," said Tokio Fujikawa, 70, who was demonstrating traditional mochi-making to preschool children at a day-care center in the Omori neighborhood of Tokyo recently. "I order my mochi from my local rice shop."

When she was growing up in a rural area, Mrs. Fujikawa recalled, her parents would get up at 3 A.M. on New Year's Day to begin steaming the rice. "In a way, I miss that kind of tradition," she said. "But I think it's unavoidable because nowadays each house is too small to allow for mochi-making."

Sachiko Hidaka, head of the day-care center, said mochi was cut into very small pieces for 1- and 2-year-olds, but for older children there was little risk.

The Tokyo Fire Department advises that elderly people in particular cut the mochi into small pieces and eat it along with something to drink. "Wet the throat, chew it fully and then swallow," it says.

Juzo Itami's movie "Tampopo," which makes fun of Japanese eating habits, suggests an even better technique. An old man in a restaurant, after eating some mochi, begins to gasp for air. Other patrons pound on his back and turn him upside down, to no avail. Finally, someone puts a vacuum cleaner nozzle into his mouth and sucks the mochi out.

"Nobody does this kind of

thing anymore," said Tokio Fujikawa, 70, who was demonstrating traditional mochi-making to preschool children at a day-care center in the Omori neighborhood of Tokyo recently. "I order my mochi from my local rice shop."

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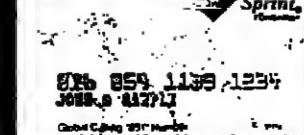
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The UN Mission's Other Somalia Disaster: \$3.9 Million Lost'

By Julia Preston
Washington Post Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Somalia was in desperate need of barbed wire for its compound in Mogadishu, to ward off trigger-happy Somali militiamen. UN buyers ordered a big supply. When the long-awaited shipment arrived, there were thousands of meters of wire — but not a single Barb.

Then there were the spotlights the United Nations ordered to illuminate the streets around the compound. Hundreds of expensive fixtures reached Mogadishu — with no sockets in them for bulbs. A \$200,000 fire truck the United Nations bought could not put out a fire, since it came with no water tanks or hoses.

These are some of the more legendary misfires of UN procurement in Somalia. Since the end of the Cold War, UN peacekeeping has grown enor-

mously, from 14 missions in 1990 to 33 today. The United Nations now spends \$3.8 billion a year maintaining 90,000 troops. But its outdated bureaucracy was never geared to big military-style operations. In one trouble spot after another, it is struggling to get a grip on the management of its overseas peacekeeping missions.

The most chaotic of all is the \$1-billion-a-year mission in Somalia. In one incident alone last April, \$3 million was lost through careless cash handling and theft. The money, in neatly wrapped \$100 bills, was lifted from the cashier's office in the main UN compound in Mogadishu. According to a confidential report by UN investigators, UN money handlers had stuffed the cash in an empty carton, for bottled water, then stashed it in the bottom drawer of a filing cabinet.

The UN audit team found that about \$10 million in cash, used to pay Somali staff and contractors, passed through the Mogadishu office each month. But the cashier's office was so haphazardly arranged that "the exact positions and quantity of the money" were "obvious to money receivers," the auditors wrote in their report.

"A hundred or more civilians, military and contractors paid daily could easily see

where the money was kept," Mogadishu compound, but the cashiers had chosen to fill it with Somali currency — which is worthless outside Somalia — and not with the dollars.

Top UN administrators in Mogadishu were alerted to the problem. Another audit team from headquarters urgently warned the chief administrative officer, Douglas Manson, in a Dec. 11, 1993, cable, of

"serious deficiencies" in the cash office "which, if not corrected immediately, would potentially lead to an eventual loss of the organization's assets."

Mr. Manson took no precautions. After the robbery, the United Nations found Mr. Manson, a Canadian, "grossly negligent" and turned the re-ignition he faced into a dismissal.

The United Nations also managed to lose cash to a flood in a country punished by prolonged drought. Mission accountants wrote off a loss of \$76,667 in Somali currency that was destroyed by mildew when it was stored flooded in a downpour. Mr. Niazi confirmed.

In addition to the cash losses, UN officials acknowledged that huge accounting errors resulted in discrepancies of \$13.4 million in their ledgers from Somalia. U.S. officials said.

ALLIES: Mediation Call

Continued from Page 1

Russian tanks rammed into the provincial capital, Grozny, has provoked a Western outcry that Russia has committed flagrant breaches of human rights.

[The United States applauded Mr. Yeltsin's decision to halt the bombing of Grozny, Agence France-Presse reported Wednesday. The State Department spokesman, Mike McCurry, had earlier tempered concern about the Russian action by recalling America's fight to stop the secession of the South in its Civil War. This meant, he said, that the United States needed to be conscious of these kinds of issues when judging a new democracy in Russia.]

Russia's campaign to suppress Chechnya's revolt has reinforced fears among central and eastern European states about a security vacuum in their region that has prompted many of them to apply for early membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. That, in turn, has worsened tensions with Russia, which fears being encircled by a hostile military alliance pressing up to its borders.

Poland's president, Lech Wałęsa, said his nation was observing events in Chechnya "with concern and anxiety." He said it was impossible to solve sovereignty disputes with the use of force, and urged the warring parties "to start negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement."

While fearful of undermining Mr. Yeltsin and abetting the rise of his more nationalistic opponents, European officials said the Union's 15 member states may soon be compelled to consider taking punitive measures, such as mild sanctions or aid cuts, unless Russia agreed to halt its bloody assault on Grozny and find a negotiated solution to the conflict.

"Russia wants to be a partner of Europe and we have made much progress," said Mr. Juppé of France. "We give a lot of money to Russia. When you want to be a true partner you have to practice negotiation and not use force."

Concern is also growing in Western capitals about the authoritarian tendencies found among Yeltsin's advisers, such as his chief bodyguard, General Alexander A. Korzhakov, the former KGB major who has promoted the harsh crackdown in Chechnya.

"There is a stiffening, and perhaps a return to old practices," Mr. Juppé said. "People are talking of purges."

Germany has been one of the strongest advocates of Western political and economic assistance to Russia, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl prides himself on the close personal rapport he has established with Mr. Yeltsin. But the scale of Russia's use of force against rebels in Chechnya and Mr. Yeltsin's erratic statements about cooperation with NATO have caused uneasiness in the West.

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Chechen women weeping Wednesday at the funeral of a man killed in the bombardment of the open-air market in Shali.

RUSSIA: Yeltsin, Under Rising Criticism, Halts Bombing of Rebel Capital

Continued from Page 1

cow on Thursday to demand an audience with Mr. Yeltsin.

"It is not only the fate of Chechnya alone, but the fate of Russia that is being decided in Grozny," he said at a news conference in Nazran, a town 90 kilometers (55 miles) west of Grozny.

There was no word on Wednesday from the Chechen president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, who was last reported to be in a hut beneath his presidential palace. There were rumors in Grozny that Mr. Dudayev was missing, dead or had fled the city. Russian military intelligence officials told the Interfax news agency that they were investigating his whereabouts but had no reliable information.

Russian television news programs, and particularly the independent channel,

NTV, have been airing disturbing — and for Russia unprecedented — footage of killed and maimed civilians and bodies of Russian soldiers piled up on the streets of Grozny.

The gruesome scenes have prompted outrage, as well as widespread skepticism about government reports minimizing the amount of civilian and Russian casualties.

When Valentin Kovalev, the chairman of a committee recently created by Mr. Yeltsin to monitor the constitutional rights of Chechen citizens, was asked Wednesday at a press conference about Russian losses, he answered that "20 units of armor" were lost on Tuesday.

In Grozny, accounts of the fighting on Wednesday varied widely. The Russian government information center reported that fighting had lessened in the city, and

that Russian troops were engaged in a mop-up operation.

But Reuters reported that bands of Chechen fighters, emboldened by their success at keeping Russian soldiers at bay, triumphantly rode through some city streets firing automatic rifles and shouting "God is Great."

A reporter for Agence France-Presse, Stephane Ojollet, 31, was wounded in the thigh by a sniper's bullet in the eastern part of Grozny. Officials in Moscow said that his life was not in danger. Two reporters, an American free-lance photographer and a Russian reporter, have been killed in the fighting in Chechnya.

A hundred civilians died during bombing raids on Tuesday over the village of Shali, 25 kilometers from Grozny.

Russia Seems to Be Targeting Civilians

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

KHASSAVYURT, Russia — New details on Russian air raids in the rebel republic of Chechnya suggested Wednesday that the attacks were intended to kill civilians, despite a vow by President Boris N. Yeltsin to avoid civilian casualties.

Journalists visiting the Chechen town of Shali found the remains of cluster bombs dropped Tuesday on the town's hospital, the central bazaar and a funeral at a cemetery. The attacks on Shali were among at least 11 air raids against civilian targets that have been verified in the last three days by foreign journalists.

Russian jets have killed at least 76 people and wounded about 200 in rural areas south of Grozny, according to combined counts of the journalists and a Chechen hospital director. Chechen residents have reported other air strikes unconfirmed by journalists, against villages and rural crossroads near Grozny, the Chechen capital.

While Mr. Yeltsin's office said

Wednesday he had ordered a halt to bombing raids that can cause casualties

among the peaceful population" of Chechnya. But Russian pilots' frequent strikes against nonmilitary targets have belied Mr. Yeltsin's assurance.

Last week, as Russian air force captain observed the attacks from within the city, which he said he had visited while on leave to make his own judgment of the operation. He told an American journalist that Russian pilots were dropping

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We May Filibuster, Feisty Senate Democrats Warn

By Jerry Gray
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — With pomp and ceremony, but clearly taking a back seat to the floor show in the House of Representatives, the Senate convened Wednesday under Republican rule for the first time in nearly a decade.

In one of their first moves as the minority party and in an indication of just how topsy-turvy things are on Capitol Hill, the Democrats proposed weakening the filibuster rules that the Republicans had used so effectively when they were the minority. The proposal drew prompt opposition from Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, the new Republican majority leader, giving it no chance of progressing through the Congress.

But even as the Democrats were advocating placing restrictions on the use of the filibuster, their new leader, Senator Thomas A. Daschle of South Dakota was issuing a warning to the Republicans that the Democrats would not totally abandon the legislative tool.

"If the Republicans become captives of the radical right, unfortunately we may be called upon to use the filibuster or whatever other tactics," said Mr. Daschle, who as Democratic leader is the highest ranking Democrat in the Senate. "I don't expect that to happen; I know Senator Dole doesn't expect that to happen."

Opening day of the 104th Congress reflected not only the entrenched traditions of each chamber of the legislative body, but gave a solid indication of the pace that the new Republican legislative leadership — Mr. Dole and Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia — intend to set.

An exuberant Mr. Dole looked on as 11 new members of the Senate, all of them Republicans, were sworn in but most of the spotlight focused on the other side of the Capitol where Mr. Gingrich, the new speaker of the House, staged a show that made the Senate proceedings appear mundane.

Mr. Dole conceded the spotlight to Mr. Gingrich, even leaving his own chamber for a brief period to watch part of the proceedings in the House.

As Mr. Dole was excusing his colleagues to allow some of them to pose for photographs with family members and friends, the fast-starting Mr. Gingrich was putting his members through a full work day of debating and voting on the first of a slew of bills on which Republicans campaigned last fall under their Contract With America.

"If I have one goal for the 104th Congress, it is this: That we will dust off the 10th Amendment and restore it to its rightful place in our Constitution," he said.

Mr. Dole used the rest of his brief speech to list the early goals of the Republican-run Senate: an end to unfunded federal mandates, a crime bill, tax cuts, cuts in government spending and committee budgets, and a line-item veto for the president.



Kathleen Gingrich of Dauphin, Pennsylvania, holding a portrait of her son.

INSULT: Low Words From New House Speaker

Continued from Page 1

said. "She owes an apology to my mother, the president and the country."

For her part, Mrs. Clinton, who is vacationing with her family in Little Rock, Arkansas, ignored questions about the incident. But later in the day, after a dedication ceremony for a school in Sherwood, Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton told a group of sixth graders that "the best way to handle criticism is to remember the Golden Rule."

In the CBS interview transcript, Ms. Chung asked the 68-year-old Mrs. Gingrich what her son told her about Mr. Clinton.

She answered: "The only thing he ever told me is that he's smart. That he's an intelligent man. That he's not very practical, but he's intelligent."

Then Mrs. Gingrich added: "I can't tell you what he said about Hillary." According to the transcript of the interview released by CBS,

Ms. Chung then said, "You can't?" and Mrs. Gingrich replied: "I can't."

But Ms. Chung persisted, "Why don't you just whisper it to me, just between you and me?"

Mrs. Gingrich replied: "She's a bitch." About the only thing she ever said about her, I think they had some meeting you know and she takes over . . . but with Newt there, she can't."

Mr. Gingrich, who has criticized the media as liberal and biased, demanded an apology from CBS and Ms. Chung, saying: "My mother is not a professional politician, she's not a national figure, she's not a millionaire television correspondent."

During the 1984 Presidential Campaign, Barbara Bush told reporters that the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Geraldine A. Ferraro, could be likened to a word that "rhymes with rich." She said later the word she had in mind was "witch."

Eugene P. Wigner Dies at 92, Key Figure in Nuclear Physics

By William J. Broad
New York Times Service

Eugene P. Wigner, a physicist who made fundamental advances in nuclear physics and quantum theory and helped usher in the atomic age, died Sunday in Princeton, New Jersey. He was 92 years old and lived in Princeton.

The cause was pneumonia, according to Princeton University, where he spent much of his career.

Mr. Wigner's greatest contribution to science, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1963, was his insight into quantum mechanics, a cornerstone of modern science that addresses the behavior of subatomic particles.

He discovered a way to understand the complex actions of electrons, which circle all atomic nuclei in discrete energy bands, jumping from one quantum level to another:

In pioneering this approach, Mr. Wigner became one of the first scientists to peer into the subatomic realm to see the deep symmetry involved in the balance of countervailing forces and particles, a perception that

subsequently emerged as one of the guiding principles of 20th-century physics.

Today the scientific canon includes Wigner crystals, Wigner theorems, Wigner energy and Wigner rules — all tending to be expressions of symmetry and order.

Mr. Wigner was part of a circle of remarkably visionary scientists born and educated in Budapest who eventually came to the West and transformed the modern world.

In 1939, having glimpsed the possibility of a nuclear chain reaction, Mr. Wigner was one of three prominent scientists who persuaded Albert Einstein to alert President Franklin D. Roosevelt that an atomic bomb was probably feasible and that Nazi Germany might build it first. Their warning led the United States to start the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb.

Jess Stacy, 90, one of the leading pianists of the swing era and long a mainstay in Benny Goodman's orchestra, died Sunday in Los Angeles of congestive heart failure.

Byron MacGregor, 46, a veteran TV and radio journalist whose patriotic narrative recording "The Americans" got wide air play in the 1970s, died Tuesday of pneumonia in Detroit.

Ted Hawkins, 58, the versatile bluesman whose trademark milk crate served as his seat during sidewalk performances and world tours, died Sunday of a stroke in Los Angeles.

One else. No one suggests they have any major functioning installations today in the country, although no one questions their intent. If they would, they could go towards nuclear weapons in a systematic way."

The Iranians have, so far, done little more than amass nuclear material and some equipment, such as a neutron source reactor, plus an isotope separator.

But they have yet to build, as the North Koreans did, a nuclear reactor that can be used in to develop nuclear weapons. The Americans and Israelis worry, however, that if the scheduled building programs go ahead the Iranians will be able to take quantum leaps in their push to collect all the necessary components needed to build an atomic weapons.

The Iranians, however, do not have a uranium enrichment plant or plutonium reprocessing plant. "The problem is that with the prevailing situation in the former Soviet Union we can't exclude more short cuts happening," said a senior western intelligence official, "then the time will be even less than five years."

Reza Amrollahi, the president of the Iranian Atomic Energy organization, has repeatedly insisted that Iran's nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. But other Iranian leaders have often stated that Islamic nations must acquire nuclear weapons to counter those weapons held by the Americans and Israelis.

IRAN: Tehran Believed to Be Close to Building Bomb

Continued from Page 1

administration officials as "dual containment."

But senior Clinton administration officials interviewed in Washington said their efforts had failed to halt the flow of nuclear technology to Iran. The most active center for nuclear weapons research and production is in Bushel, 750 kilometers south of Tehran. It has two 1,300-megawatt reactors that are under construction.

But some Iranian specialists, like Shahram Chubin, at the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva and author of a recent article on the Iranian nuclear weapons program, remain skeptical of Iran's ability to build and sustain a program based on covert acquisitions.

"How will a few weapons, that can't be developed very far, get them anywhere?" the author asked in a telephone interview from Geneva. "Here's a country that can't make its own missiles. It has had a missile program for 10 years and still imports missiles with 1950s technology from North Korea."

"Any bomb they would make would probably be a greater threat to themselves than any-

CONGRESS: A New Day Dawns for U.S. Republicans CLINTON: Consulting the Gurus

Continued from Page 1

mands that will be placed on the two men, who will need to craft final compromises on legislation to be sent to President Bill Clinton.

For all the celebration, the Republican majorities are relatively narrow: 230 to 204 with one independent in the House, and 53 to 47 in the Senate.

Congressional Democrats said they would cooperate with the newly enfranchised majority — but stood ready for combat as well, particularly when it comes time to creating a tax cut.

"Agreement will not often be easy," said the House Democratic leader, Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri. "Agreement may not always be possible."

It was Mr. Gephardt who exemplified the Democratic disenchantment.

"As you may imagine, this is not a moment I had been waiting for," he said as he gave Mr.

Gingrich the gavel that symbolizes the speaker's authority.

Speechmaking aside, there were parties beyond counting as Republicans and Democrats alike celebrated their hard-won election triumphs. They ran the gamut from receptions in the cramped confines of first-term House members' offices to a lavish, lobbyist-provided spread for members of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

There were personal transitions aplenty, from the 73 first-term Republican House members who provided the Republicans with their majority to a Democratic father-and-son, Senate-and-House combination.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, father of Representative Patrick Kennedy from Rhode Island, walked his son into the House chamber before returning to the Senate to take the oath of office there for a seventh time.

The formalities over, Mr. Gingrich began wielding the gavel with purpose as he worked through a lengthy series of measures designed to overhaul House proceedings. Part of the Republicans' "Contract With America," they include cutting committee staffs, abolishing three committees and requiring a three-fifths vote to raise income tax rates.

At the end of the list was the first bill to come to a vote in the new Congress, a measure requiring Congress to live under the same workplace discrimination and other laws as the rest of the nation.

In their first hours in the minority, House Democrats sniped, demanding a separate vote on a proposal to ban gifts from lobbyists and complaining that Republicans were ramrodding their proposals through under a "gag rule" that denied them the opportunity to be heard.

Continued from Page 1
sions: a spokesman said he considered them private. Aides to Mr. Robbins said he was unavailable.

At least one other outsider, described by sources as a "psycho-historian," a writer who emphasizes the psychological influences on historical figures, was also a guest of the president.

Mr. Clinton has engaged in practically nonstop consultations with elected officials, defeated congressional Democrats, former and current governors and all layers of political players since his party lost Congress in November.

Mr. Robbins, who is based in California, calls himself a "peak-performance coach" and a "turnaround expert." His books, "Awaken the Giant Within" and "Unlimited Power," have been described by viewers as a combination of homespun stoicism, "get-up-and-go" advice, and California New Ageism.

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International Herald Tribune

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The Bosnia Atrocities

An international war crimes tribunal, the first since World War II, is gathering evidence against those who committed atrocities, rapists and torturers who carried out the Serbs' genocidal policy of "ethnic cleansing" against Muslims. The United States is right to demand prosecution of these criminals and oppose amnesty.

Other United Nations members, including Britain and France, seem to regard the war crimes inquiry as an impediment to peace. Washington firmly contests that view, saying, "Unless those responsible are held accountable, there can be no lasting peace and reconciliation in Bosnia."

One prosecution is already under way. Others are likely. Justice for top officials who ordered or sanctioned the abuses may have to await a change of regime in Belgrade. Nonetheless, the task of documenting the crimes must go forward now while evidence can still be gathered.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that the Serbs have expelled or imprisoned 90 percent of the 1.7 million non-Serbs who once lived in Serbian-held areas of Bosnia.

Even now, the Serbs have stepped up their campaign of ethnic cleansing around Barja Luka in northwest Bosnia, Bijeljina in the northeast and Rogatica north of the Gorazde enclave. About 800 Muslims a month are being forcibly expelled from their homes. The United States cites "numerous incidents of Bosnian Serbs bursting into Muslim homes at

night to evict, rob and rape the residents."

To choke off meaningful investigations, Britain, France and other UN members have quietly tried to limit financial support. Of the \$28 million for the tribunal, less than 2 percent was originally budgeted for the critical work of tracking down witnesses, obtaining and translating their accounts, exhuming mass graves and conducting postmortems, and providing medical and forensic expertise.

The United States has contributed an additional \$13 million, including two dozen officials, directly to the investigative work, and should press the United Nations to invest most of its money there.

Responsibility for the crimes is not evenly shared on all sides of the conflict, as some United Nations members suggest. As the Clinton administration notes, the term "ethnic cleansing" was developed precisely to describe the Bosnian Serbs' explicit method, backed by Belgrade, of creating an ethnically "pure" Greater Serbia.

In contrast, the Bosnian government supports a multiethnic state, and where there have been violations by its local commanders it has renounced them.

Britain and France also favor lifting UN sanctions against Serbia if a peace accord is signed. The United States properly opposes any easing of sanctions if Serbia obstructs the war crimes tribunal. It would be wrong to expunge these atrocities from the record of history.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Welcome to the 104th

It's easy to read too much into the results of a single American election, and the (winning) politicians and commentators do it all the time, no matter that they're often wrong. In the case of November's election, the one that produced the present Congress, it seems that the normal risks are reversed: the greater hazard lies on the side of underestimating what the voters had to say. We say that despite the vast amount of commentary that has already been expended on the subject,

This election was a big one, and not an accident. It was indeed about the role of government, particularly at the federal level; the extent to which too many decisions in the country have become federal as distinct from state or local or private or — would you believe? — matters best left to individual responsibility; and about the quality of too many of those federal decisions, what has all too often seemed to be a drift of the government away from a common sense and majority view.

The Republicans said the role had grown too large and promised to cut it back. That is the real Contract With America, not the fine print of the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act or Common Sense Legal Reforms Act or any other of the 10 legislative planks of the printed contract consists.

The majorities elected Nov. 8 say they want to do what Ronald Reagan did not: cut the government back to size. And because they control Congress, which Mr. Reagan did not except in perhaps his first year, they have the power.

Often promises like theirs to effect large changes are honored more in the speech than in fact. The results tend to be more symbolic and political than substantive. This time there is every reason to think that the Republicans will do a lot of what they say — and that imposes a greater responsibility on both parties.

Many of these proposals are overdue and good ideas; they have the potential, literally, to refresh the levels of government and programs — welfare, for example — to which they are addressed. But only if they are well done.

Each party has a role to play in making sure that they are in fact well done, and in the debates ahead each bears by virtue of its history a particular burden of proof. The Republicans need to demonstrate that they are not representing just the haves, are not heedless of the problems of

The Democrats and the president, their nominal leader, have an equally large problem. For substantive no less than political reasons, they need to demonstrate that theirs is not just a reflexive response based on tired doctrine to the demands of their traditional constituents; nor can it be the same old response in poor disguise. It is not enough for them to point out that people are ambivalent about government, which of course they are; that they want their own benefits up even as they want their taxes down. Nor is it enough just to dress up old programs in a new vocabulary.

The people really said something in November. The Democrats need to hear and respect it and, importantly, not ape their Republican opposition's programs with half-baked imitations, but rather come up with a fitting, principled response of their own. New Gingrich said on television the other day, "What the Democrats need to think about is what is their better answer." He's right. There are major useful changes to be made in the way America is now governed, and not least among the institutions they could liberate is the Democratic Party itself.

Welcome to the 104th Congress.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Pyongyang Is Calling the Shots

Don't get us wrong. It's not that we think that the United States should renege on the nuclear deal with North Korea because Pyongyang shot down an American helicopter. Instead, it seems to us that North Korea's actions of killing one pilot and holding another hostage for two weeks suggest why there should have been no nuclear deal in the first place.

No one outside North Korea really knows what nuclear capabilities Pyongyang has. What we do know is that North Korea tends to treat agreements as tactical weapons, to be abandoned at will, as it did with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty itself. The surviving U.S. Army

pilot, Bobby Hall, was used in the same way: as a vehicle to demand further concessions from Uncle Sam and drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul, which was excluded from most of the recent negotiations.

South Korea, to be sure, deserves a fair share of the blame. Rather than deciding on a policy, it has criticized the United States for being a warmonger when it gets tough and for selling out when it makes a deal. Unfortunately, the Clinton administration appears to have agreed that denial and incoherence are the best policy. The result is that North Korea is again calling the shots on the Korean Peninsula.

—Far Eastern Economic Review

(Hong Kong).

Bad News for Yeltsin but Not Necessarily for Russia

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The ex-Red Army, which once occupied half of Europe and much of Asia, has been outfoxed and outworn by Chechen rebels in the streets of Grozny, Russia's military weakness has been stripped naked in the horrific and bungled assault.

The battle is not over, and the Russians have the firepower to make the Chechens pay dearly for their defiance and cleverness. But already the small war in Chechnya has made clear some important political realities that should affect how Americans think about their role in the world in the year to come.

The Russian attack on Grozny is a political, military and moral disaster for President Boris Yeltsin in the short term and perhaps beyond. Mr. Yeltsin, a fine counterpuncher who can normally be counted on to dominate short-term crises provoked by others, has let himself be drawn into a quagmire this time.

And he and his inept defense minister, Pavel Grachev, confront the choice of forgetting Grozny and going home in humiliation or erasing it from the map. Russian history and the mounting embarrassment of Mr. Yeltsin and General Grachev suggest that they will have another go at destroying Grozny in order to save it.

Tactically the war in Chechnya is bad news for Americans, who have become accustomed to rooting wholeheartedly for Mr. Yeltsin's efforts to entrench democracy and free markets in the Russian Federation. Until now, events that destabilized Mr. Yeltsin have usually run counter to U.S. interests.

But strategically the Chechen crisis may change that equation. The war does not represent a resurgence of Russian nationalism and imperialism. It shows instead the weakness of Russian nationalism as a force on the territory ruled by the czars and then by the commissars for nearly three centuries.

Russian nationalism is not strong enough to hold together a successor state to the Soviet Union that includes Moscow and the Caucasus, much less a reconstructed empire that stretches to the Polish frontier and beyond. Brute force must be added, in desperation and improvisation, as an uncertain cement for the Russian Federation.

Russia confronts the possibility of its own unraveling in the Chechen crisis.

Mr. Yeltsin and his successor(s) must devote themselves to halting the chain-reaction fragmentation that began in Central Europe in 1989 and still has not run its course. Russia is in no position to try to regain Poland, Hungary or the eastern regions of Germany, much less to threaten Western Europe and the United States, for at least a decade or more.

The nationalism of the Poles, Czechs, East Germans and others who defected from their Communist rulers deserves much of the credit for cracking the Soviet empire apart. It is easier to lose sight of the fact that Mr. Yeltsin seized power from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in the name of Russian nationalism as well as democracy. His mission was to destroy the Soviet Union so he could restore Russia to national greatness.

He fights for Russian nationalism and his own survival, not for democracy, and his own survival, not for democracy, in Chechnya. Americans have no stake of their own in that fight, and the Clinton administration has wisely stayed on the sidelines, tempering its customary support for Mr. Yeltsin as the embodiment of democratic reform in Russia with expressions of concern about the alarming civilian losses in Grozny.

An outcome that weakens the Russian military and lessens Moscow's reach is

not inherently against U.S. interests now — even if it harms Mr. Yeltsin politically.

Chechnya may well be the catalyst that separates Mr. Yeltsin's fate from the fate of democracy in Russia. Moscow's independent newspapers and broadcast media have covered the debacle in Grozny in great and humiliating detail. The voices attacking Mr. Yeltsin's policies belong predominantly to reformers, not to those who yearn for a return to totalitarianism. It is possible to hope that democracy has now taken root in Moscow independent of Mr. Yeltsin's policies, and can survive them.

More apocalyptic outcomes could occur, of course. An embittered and humiliated Russian military could seize control from Boris Yeltsin and end the experiment with democracy. Or a breakup of Russia could mean a breakup of the Russian military and its command and control over the ex-Soviet nuclear arsenal.

But the dominant trend line as of 1995 begins to show Russia becoming more internally absorbed, militarily weaker and less of a threat to its international neighbors. That is a big problem for Boris Yeltsin — but not necessarily for democracy in Russia and for the rest of the world.

Washington Post Writers Group

A Chechnya Diversion, Then Back to Russia's Real Problems

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The attack on Chechnya has been an attempt by Boris Yeltsin's government to solve one crisis by creating another. It has been an attempt to distract Russians from the country's dramatic political and economic situation by giving them a successful war of colonial reconquest in the Caucasus. That has gone wrong, and the result may be very bad.

The gamble deserves to have gone wrong, since it was not only cruel but stupid. There was no real justification for this attack — for all this killing and destruction, and for the precedents that now have been set for Moscow's dealings with the non-Russian peoples once part of the czarist and Soviet empires.

The separatist sentiments that produced the Chechens' declaration of independence three years ago would sooner or later have run into the wall of reality. Chechnya has no place to go; its capacity to survive as an independent nation and economy is all but nonexistent. As serious Chechens have acknowledged, they would eventually have had to come to terms with Russia and asked for some form of rein-

vitation into the federal economy. Mr. Yeltsin's fiasco undermines his authority and obviously could drive him, and those around him, further onto a course that alienates Russia from the West, weakening its economy and society even more than is now the case.

Mr. Yeltsin's political position has declined since liberal forces failed in the parliamentary elections in December 1993. An opinion poll published in Moscow last Sunday said 65 percent of those consulted have lost confidence in his leadership.

The attack on Grozny was meant to reconsolidate his position by preempting the nationalist cause. However, an inquiry sponsored by the Interfax press agency says 75 percent of Russia's voters are against what he has done in Chechnya.

Conditions in Russia have, for the majority, grown worse under Mr. Yeltsin, even if he is scarcely to blame. The social costs of economic reform have been immense. Gennadi Gerasimov, the spokesman for Mikhail Gorbachev when the latter was the Sovi-

et Union's president, recently

called attention (IHT, Dec. 29) to the 10 percent fall in male life expectancy in Russia since 1989. There was an 800,000 excess of deaths over births in 1993.

The suicide rate in 1993 was up by 43 percent over 1991.

There is despair. Fathers are killing themselves because they cannot provide for their children. Couples are refusing to have children. The cost of the war against the Chechen separatists will make the economic situation worse than it already is. Nineteen ninety-four saw 320 percent inflation, an improvement on the previous year's 940 percent, certainly, but on the rise again since the ruble's plunge against the dollar in October.

Mr. Yeltsin's economic minister has warned that the internationally agreed stabilization plan for the ruble already has been jeopardized by the Chechen affair. Thirteen billion dollars of internationally promised credits have been incorporated into Russia's 1995 budget. This aid could be halted. The IMF and the West

have no interest in retrospectively financing the Chechen war.

Russia desperately needs economic progress and the means to recover national self-respect after the fiasco of Communism's collapse and what amounted to a Russian surrender to the West's ideas and values. The turbulence of reform has already made those ideas and values seem much less convincing than in 1990-1991.

Self-respect is what the nationalists' rhetoric has been all about. What the Yeltsin government has done in Chechnya now has produced a further national humiliation. It worsens the economic plight of the country, alienates the West and frightens the life out of other ex-Soviet republics — the Baltic states and Ukraine in particular.

The extreme nationalist opponents of the Yeltsin government today remain divided and have no coherent or realizable program, although they speak to the fears and frustrations of many. They could become a serious force under leaders less disreputable and irresponsible than Vladimir Zhirinovsky. The country's democrats have

perhaps the better chance to re-establish themselves as a result of the Chechnya affair. Liberal parliamentarians and the independent press have resisted the war and seem to have public opinion substantially behind them. The army has been badly used and itself humiliated. Those in charge of it, and of the most important economic sectors and industries, while they may not be liberals, are realists, and what Russia now needs, after this plunge into violence, is realism.

That can come. The situation remains an open one despite the government's clumsy lies and attempts to control information.

The Western capitals' reactions to what has taken place have been slow and confused. The West needs now to insist upon one thing above all in its communications to Mr. Yeltsin and his associates: that a government which attempts to settle internal problems with tank columns and infantry assaults cannot expect trust and cooperation from the democratic community of nations. Conduct has consequences.

International Herald Tribune
© Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Keep Playing the Game With North Korea, but Watch the Bankers

By Thomas L. Friedman

TOKYO — In the past few weeks, U.S. diplomats in Asia have been compiling a list of all the ailments that the North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is rumored to be suffering from. He is reportedly dying of heart failure, kidney failure, liver failure, brain damage, depression, bulimia, dandruff, killer hemorrhoids and the lingering effects of a car accident. Aside from that, he is fine.

The elusive health report on the reclusive Kim actually says something quite definitive: America doesn't have a clue about what is happening in North Korea, and neither does anyone else.

The Chinese have told Washington they don't know who is in

charge in Pyongyang. Ditto the Japanese. Even the South Koreans, who always insist that they have North Korea wired for sound, now aver that they, too, are baffled as to why Kim Jr. has not been inaugurated with all the leadership titles of his late father, Kim Il Sung, who died in July and was president and Workers' Party secretary-general.

North Korea is a totalitarian state without a totalitarian leader, and there is nothing worse. It means that you have all the secrecy of a totalitarian government without any of the decisiveness. It also means that the United

States has struck a nuclear disarmament deal with a stealth regime.

North Korea, therefore, raises an unusual diplomatic dilemma: How does Washington make policy toward a country without any information about its leaders, but with very real problems to solve with them?

American dealers with North Korea today are a bit like playing poker with a man whose face you can never see, so you never know whether he is bluffing, nervous, honest-looking or relieved. You don't even know if he is the same man playing every hand. All you have to go on is the cards he puts

on the table. The temptation in such a frustrating game is to take all your chips and go home. After all, who wants to play poker with a faceless partner?

I would if I were winning, and the fact is that while Washington knows nothing about who is in charge in North Korea, someone there has been giving orders to implement last October's nuclear agreement, and so far all the orders have gone Washington's way.

The North Koreans have frozen construction on their two unfinished nuclear reactors, which could have produced nuclear material for scores of bombs.

They have agreed to put their spent fuel rods into safe storage and are now engaged in technical discussions with Washington on how to do it. They have also shut down their reprocessing facility and put it under tougher than ever international safeguards.

They have done all this without receiving any of the aid promised by America and in allies for alternative energy production.

Nevertheless, the new Republican leadership in the U.S. Congress, never enamored of the nuclear deal, is now threatening to use Pyongyang's illegal machinations in the recent helicopter affair as a pretext to unravel the North Korean nuclear accord.

That isn't just wrong, it's stupid. You don't get up from a poker game in which you are winning just because the person whose money you are taking is stepping on your toe.

Senator Bob Dole said the way North Korea treated the U.S. pilots proved that it couldn't be trusted. Well no kidding. You're not playing cards out here with

the Sisters of Mercy. You have to keep your eye on the prize, and the prize in this poker game is North Korea's nuclear capability.

The minute the North stops paying in nuclear coinage, then by all means kick over the table. But as long as the other guy is playing and paying, why get up? That is probably just what the North Korean opponents of the nuclear deal want.

But lest the Clinton team get too cocky with its winnings in Pyongyang Poker, a word of caution: Yes, you are winning, but you are doing it with someone else's chips. You are assuming that when you have to pay the \$4 billion promised to North Korea to permanently shut down its nuclear facilities and build alternative, safe reactors, the Japanese and South Koreans will write the

OPINION

A Nation of Solo Bowlers Is Sliding Into the Gutter

By George F. Will

WASHINGTON — As American conservatives begin, with brassy confidence, their crusade to regenerate the Republic's virtue, here is a concise summation of the current crisis: Too many bowlers are not members of bowling leagues.

If you are blasé about that, you don't operate a bowling alley. Such places make profits not only by renting shoes and lanes but also by selling pizza and beer, and league bowlers consume three times more of such stuff than do solo bowlers. Furthermore, the rise of solo bowling is worrisome for reasons explained by Robert Putnam in his essay "Bowling Alone" in the January issue of *The Journal of Democracy*.

Mr. Putnam, a Harvard professor of international affairs, says solo bowling is a sign of "the erosion of social capital."

More Americans than ever are bowling: Almost 80 million bowled at least once in 1993, nearly a third more than voted in the 1994 congressional elections. But although the number of bowlers is up 10 percent since 1980, participation in leagues is down 40 percent.

Mr. Putnam calls "whimsical" this evidence of "social decapitalization," but there is nothing trivial about the cumulative weight of his evidence, drawn from surveys, of declining civic engagement and social connectedness.

Since 1973, the number of Americans who report having attended "in the past year" a public meeting on town or school affairs has declined by more than one-third (from 22 percent to 13 percent). Union membership has fallen from 32 percent of the nonagricultural work force in 1953 to about 15 percent today. Participation in parent-teacher associations has declined from 12 million in 1964 to 7 million today. Since 1970 the numbers of volunteers for the Boy Scouts and Red Cross are off 26 percent and 61 percent respectively.

Now, economic changes may largely govern trends in union membership, and changes in women's possibilities may explain the 59 percent decline in membership in the Federation of Women's Clubs since 1964 and the 42 percent decline in the League of Women Voters since 1969.

Also, there has been growth, sometimes spectacular, in membership in groups like the American Association of Retired Persons (from 400,000 in 1960 to 33 million in 1993) and the Sierra Club. But members of such groups have ties to a common agenda, not to one another.

Such groups do not substitute for bowling leagues.

The technological transformation of leisure — the movement, as it were, from vaudeville to the VCR — has had an atomizing, isolating effect. So have some demographic changes — more divorces, fewer children. But these factors do not fully explain the swift, substantial and broad decline in organizational memberships in recent decades.

This has happened, Mr. Putnam notes, at a time when the personal attributes that used to correlate with group involvement — higher education, middle age — have increased.

The "repeating hypothesis" blames American mobility. Frequent repeating of plants damages roots, and frequent changes of residence — blame economic dynamism, the automobile, suburbanization, the lure of the Sun Belt — produce a deracinated population.

However, residential stability and home ownership are higher today than in the 1950s, when civic engagement, measured by voting as well as by membership in voluntary associations, was higher than today.

Has individualism become excessive? America has been well served by the individualism of its political philosophy and economic practice. Liberty and prosperity are individualism's fruits. And American individualism has traditionally been compatible with the "joining" impulse that produced a rich broth of



private intermediary institutions that mediate between the individual and government.

Such networks of attachments breed habits of trust that are part of the "social capital" which makes possible cooperation for mutual benefit. Such cooperation sustains a free society. Social trust and civic engagement are strongly correlated.

So given the decline of engagement, the following is not surprising: The percentage of Americans saying that most people are trustworthy fell by more than a third (from 58 percent

to 37 percent) from 1960 to 1993.

We refine our ethical capabilities in a social context. Mr. Putnam's data depict an impoverishment of that context.

Conservatives who worry about the "sociology of virtue" and the "ecology of liberty" believe that swallows government, which displaces other institutions, saps democracy's strength. There is, these conservatives believe, a zero-sum transaction in society: As the state waxes, other institutions wane.

Society's "little platoons" — primarily the family, but also neighborhood and community organizations — are vital to character formation. That is not urgent under tyranny, where choices are few, but it is crucial to the success of democracy.

Here is the theme of what began here this week: rescuing the little platoons from the federal government's big battalions. So if you are seeking a small leading indicator of the success of conservatism, look for increased participation in, among other things, bowling leagues.

Washington Post Writers Group.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shame on the Appeasers

Regarding "Appeasement Again: Like Ethiopia, Like Czechoslovakia" (Opinion, Dec. 6) by Stanley Hoffmann:

The appeasement policy of Britain and other European governments in the 1930s (paralleled in the United States by an isolationist drift) did not prevent World War II, quite the contrary. Mr. Hoffmann relates in a brilliant review the belief of his generation "that the appeasement of aggression would not be repeated." The Holocaust seemed to be a stark reminder. Yet here we are faced again with appeasement, this time over the Serbs' barbarous war to create a Greater Serbia.

Assuming that our decision-makers are not all ignorant of history, we might charitably conclude that governments have found themselves under domestic constraints similar to those to which their predecessors succumbed. As the gulf between rich and poor has widened, the stability of societies is deteriorating, their solidarity decreasing. Governments have less latitude in foreign policy; they are thwarted in pursuing the right course in favor of what is most profitable for the powerful. Our political system is less benevolent than we would like to believe.

How do we imagine we can get atop of the great global problems — population explosion, threats to the environment, joblessness — if we cannot solve a conflict in the middle of Europe that could have been mastered early with minimal casualties? The unmitigated Bosnian disaster ought to be perceived as a note of alarm to the great powers.

ANDRE S. MEYER,
Belp, Switzerland.

On Casting First Stones

To put Alan Cowell's article ("War on Kurds Strains Turks' Ties to Allies," Nov. 18) into the right perspective, one should recall two stories that appeared in your pages a few days earlier. One was about a draft order awaiting the signature of President Bill Clinton, which would authorize weapons sales if this would help support U.S. defense contractors and maintain high-paying American jobs. The second was about the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, where a "declaration of common resolve" was signed by participating countries to promote free trade, quickly sidestepping human rights issues in these fast-growing markets.

The situation is no different in Western Europe. Heads of state and government have recently traveled to China to clinch huge contracts. Apparently, the obvious human rights violations were not on the agenda.

All this shows us that the New World Order is nothing but a New World Trading Order. Unless Turkey's Western allies eliminate their own double standards, they are in no position to dispense advice or to give lessons on human rights to Turkey — or to any other country.

ENVER YUCESAN,
Fontainebleau, France.

Get Out of Bosnia

It will be a long time before the West, and particularly the British and the French, can wash the Bosnian blood from their hands. It is time to recognize the failures of the past and stop repeating them.

An arms embargo sounds like a good idea, but when one side has a huge advantage in arms, as the Serbs did, an embargo only sanctions the slaughter. The West thereby made

itself responsible for the Bosnians' defense. This it has never been willing to do.

And now the Europeans are more concerned with the plight of their "peacekeepers" than with that of the Bosnians. Step back, wake up and get out. If you will not ensure the peace, at least give them a chance to defend themselves.

BOB FILIPPONE,
Geneva.

Heartless' Parisians

Regarding "Madame Grès's Secret and Perplexing Death" (Features, Dec. 15) by Suzy Menkes:

Why all the fuss? The accusation that Parisians can be heartlessly unconcerned spawned the cliché many of us have heard at French dinner parties, in university hallways and workplaces: "You can die here and

nobody would even know about it!" It was only the fame of Madame Grès, who lost her so-called friends when she fell to misfortune, that made this incident noticeable.

BEATRICE JAMES,
Paris.

Hey, Hey, LBJ . . .

Regarding "End of the Parties as You've Known Them" (Opinion, Dec. 27) by William Pfaff:

The usually impeccable Mr. Pfaff misquoted the Johnson-era antiwar protesters. They did not chant, "How many kids did you kill today, LBJ?" but rather, "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" This was ritually followed by "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, NLF is gonna win!" I'm happy to set the record straight.

ROBERT BOOKMAN,
Los Angeles.

On January 9, 1995, the IHT will carry a 12-page editorial feature that sums up the past year's activities in the U.S. stock markets.

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They're Fluent in Spanglish But Lost Outside the Ghetto

By Barbara Mujica

WASHINGTON — Last spring,

my niece phoned me in tears. She was graduating from high school and had to make a decision. An outstanding soccer player, she was offered athletic scholarships by several colleges. So why was she crying?

My niece came to the United States from South America as a

MEANWHILE

child. Although she had received good grades in her schools in Miami, she spoke English with a heavy accent and her comprehension and writing skills were deficient. She was afraid that once she left the Miami environment she would feel uncomfortable and, worse still, have difficulty keeping up with class work.

Programs that keep foreign-born children in Spanish-language classrooms for years are only part of the problem. During a visit to my niece's former school, I observed that all business, not just teaching, was conducted in Spanish. In the office, secretaries spoke to the administrators and the children in Spanish.

Announcements over the public-address system were made in an English so fractured that it was almost incomprehensible.

I asked my niece's mother why, after years in public schools, her daughter had poor English skills. "It's the whole environment," she said. "All kinds of services are available in Spanish or Spanglish."

Thousands of first-generation Americans still strive to learn English, but others face reduced educational and career opportunities because they have not mastered this basic skill they need to get ahead.

According to the 1990 census, 40 percent of the Hispanics born in the United States do not graduate from high school, and the Education Department says that a lack of proficiency in English is an important factor in the drop-out rate.

People and agencies that favor providing services only in foreign languages want to help people who do not speak English, but they may be doing them a disservice by condemning them to a linguistic ghetto from which escape is difficult.

And my niece?

She turned down all of her scholarship opportunities, deciding instead to attend a small college in Miami, where she will never have to put her English to the test.

The writer is a professor of Spanish at Georgetown University. She contributed this comment to The New York Times.

HEALTH / SCIENCE

Heredity Is More Than Genetics, Suggests a New Theory

By Natalie Angier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Men may deny it, yet there it is, immortalized in song: "I want a girl just like the girl that married dear old dad."

Many women remain so romantically fixated on that first big guy in their lives that traits reminding them of their father seem the embodiment of ideal masculinity.

And when the bombast and insecurities of youth have sloughed away, most of us realize that we often think, act, gesture, opine, vote, belch, fret and procrastinate just like our parents.

Two biologists from Israel suggest, in one of the more unorthodox twists of Darwinian science, that parents could be masters of so-called phenotypic cloning: They

impress their ways of doing things so firmly on their offspring that the behaviors, or phenotypes, practically seem inherited.

Writing in the journal *Animal Behavior*, the scientists propose that many animals, including humans, transmit features of themselves from one generation to the next, not simply by passing along chromosomes, but by training their offspring to behave as they do.

The researchers argue that a behavior acquired through learning can be handed down stably through several generations, all without the involvement of the DNA.

Moreover, the scientists insist that differences in behavioral styles between one family line and another can provide an opportunity for the conventional forces of natural selection to play: The best beha-

viors, or strategies, will survive and get passed along.

The most important and admittedly disputatious point in their new theory, the scientists said, is that such variations in behaviors need not imply underlying genetic variations.

"The very DNA-centric view of heredity is wrong," said Dr. Eva Jablonka of Tel Aviv University, an author of the new report. "It was useful and necessary for the development of genetics, but there is more to heredity than genes."

In attempting to decouple heredity from genes, the researchers have won appreciation from some evolutionary biologists, who dislike the excessive reliance on the double helix as a clue to everything. But others doubt that any behavior will remain stable over generations without finding its way into an animal's DNA.

"Yes, you can pass on social learning from one generation to another, and yes, a particular behavior may be successful from the point of view of natural selection," said Dr. John Tyler Bonner, professor emeritus at Princeton University. But for a behavior that persists, he said, it is almost certain that genes get involved.

Dr. Jablonka and her co-author, Dr. Eytan Avital of the department of natural sciences at David Yellin Teacher's College in Jerusalem, argue that the ability of animals to engrave behaviors on their young could explain many hitherto mysterious trends observed in nature.

For example, the theory could shed light on the practice of foster parenting, in which mother animals will allow orphaned newborns to suckle even when the little creatures are not kin. In adopting the

baby, the mother gets one more chance to stamp her personal style, her phenotype, on the developing orphan.

However, the scientists emphasized that the theory predicts animals will accept only very young non-kin, when their chance of successful phenotypic cloning is highest.

Dr. Avital pointed out that most humans considering adoption stipulate that the child be as newly minted as possible.

Among many mammals, the female chases the male away from her infants when he so much as gives a curious sniff. Most scientists have interpreted this as maternal concern over possible infanticide, but there may be another explanation. "It's as though the female is saying, 'Go away and let me clone myself phenotypically,'" Dr. Avital said.

"This is not to be taken 100 percent seriously," said Dr. Jablonka, "but there could be an evolutionary basis for the Oedipal complex."

In a sense, the new theory is a behavioral version of Lamarckism, long a dirty word among evolutionary biologists. It proposed that an animal could modify or strengthen a part of its body through use over a lifetime, then pass that new and improved feature directly to its young.

Biologists now dismiss this, but Lamarckism has made a comeback among evolutionary biologists who study behavior rather than physiological adaptations. Scientists now realize that many animals, especially humans, depend tremendously on learned skills for survival and can change their behavior to respond to changes in the environment.

Sulfur May Be Villain In Dinosaur Disaster

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — There is yet another possible explanation for the catastrophe that wiped out the dinosaurs and countless other species on Earth 65 million years ago. The agent of destruction might have been a global haze of sulfuric acid that blocked sunlight and plunged the planet into a dark, killing chill lasting decades.

This new hypothesis stems from geological studies of a buried crater in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, a giant scar as much as 180 miles (290 kilometers) wide that is widely believed to be where a huge asteroid collided with Earth just before the extinctions.

Geologists found the rock in the crater, named Chicxulub, to be unusually rich in sulfur. If it had not been, they concluded, the dinosaurs might well have survived the impact, changing the course of evolution.

In a detailed analysis, geologists and atmospheric physicists determined that the asteroid, estimated to be 6 to 12 miles wide, would have vaporized much of the sulfur and spewed more than 100 billion tons of it into the air.

This would have filled the air with sulfur dioxide in the lower altitudes and a sulfuric acid haze in the upper atmosphere, the result of interactions between solar ultraviolet radiation and sulfur dioxide.

The dust and soot from most of the debris would have drifted back to Earth within six months, presumably too short a

time for any global darkness to have caused the mass extinctions.

But in a report in the *Journal of Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, scientists said the lighter sulfur particles would have stayed aloft and created a dense haze covering the entire planet for at least a decade, perhaps 20 or 30 years.

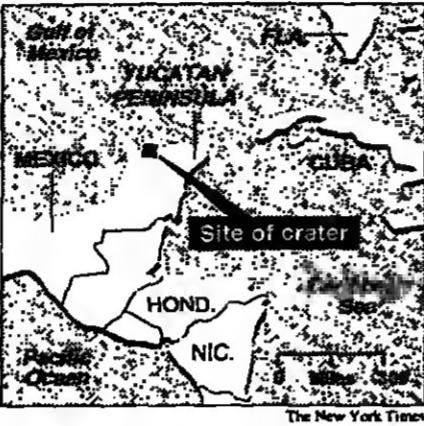
From their computer simulations, the scientists concluded that sunlight would have been diminished by as much as 20 percent, and this would have cooled the surface by 20 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit (about 11 to 16 degrees centigrade).

Such sharp climatic change persisting over decades subjected organisms all over the world to long-term stresses to which they could not adapt in such a brief time span," said Dr. Kevin O. Pope, a geologist who heads Geo Eco Arc Research, a private company in La Canada, California, one of the authors of the report.

ANOTHER member of the research team, Dr. Kevin H. Baines, an atmospheric physicist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said, "If this asteroid had struck almost any other place on Earth, it wouldn't have generated the tremendous amount of sulfur that was spewed into the atmosphere to create such a devastating, worldwide climate change."

Because the mass extinctions cleared the way for mammals, Dr. Baines observed, "we human beings owe our existence to the uniqueness of this impact region."

Dr. Baines, who has specialized in studies of the thick atmosphere of Venus, said the sulfuric acid clouds on Earth after the



impact would have been much like those that perpetually envelop Venus, with one important difference.

Earth turned cold because so much sunlight was reflected off the clouds. The surface of Venus is hot enough to melt lead because, though sunlight is reflected, the light that filters through becomes trapped by the predominantly carbon dioxide atmosphere, creating a greenhouse effect.

The idea that an extraterrestrial object, either an asteroid or comet, was responsible for the extinctions was introduced in 1980 by Dr. Walter Alvarez, a geologist at the University of California at Berkeley.

It took almost a decade for scientists to identify the crater that most probably was gouged out by the collision. Dr. Pope was one of the first to suggest Chicxulub.

With the new findings, support for the impact theory has become overwhelming. In a telephone interview, Dr. Alvarez said this shifted research into a new phase.

"It's quite reasonable to say we have the crater," he said, "and this new research is an example of how, by looking at the bedrock, we can infer what the consequences of the impact might have been."

Deep-Sixed Chemical Weapons

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Western and Russian scientists will meet in Moscow next week to decide what to do about "an impressive quantity" of chemical munitions strewn on the floor of the Baltic and North seas.

An estimated 300,000 tons of chemical agents, not counting shell casings and packaging, was dumped into the sea after World War II, much of it captured from the German Army.

Many scientists believe the agents pose a threat to fish, to the environment and to human beings as the casings slowly corrode.

Kyle Olson, the American co-director of the conference, said the amount was impressive — more than three times as great as the total chemical arsenals reported today by the United States and Russia combined.

The aim of the "advanced research workshop" organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is to identify specific risks and advise what should be done

about them, if anything. NATO has previously held meetings on Russian territory on aspects of arms control. This is the first to be concerned specifically with the problem of chemical munitions in the sea.

"The majority of the munitions that have been deep-sixed are fortunately not nerve gases, which are a ticklish problem in their own right," said Mr. Olson, the executive vice president of the Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute. "These chemicals tend to be more of the burning and suffocating agents."

These include mustard gas, arsenic compounds and lewisite, blistering agent developed in World War I.

The conference, in Kaliningrad, a suburb of Moscow, will bring together about 40 scientists from the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Latvia. They include chemists, biologists, medical experts, engineers and specialists in weapon destruction.

"A lot of the German weapons were just dropped in their original shell casings."

Mr. Olson said, "Not a lot of attention was paid to preparing cement coffins."

Some of the shells are oozing toxic gels, and Mr. Olson said that although the chemicals may be partly neutralized by contact with water, they still may pose an environmental risk of some kind. And there still is a question about neutralization by the ocean when you are talking about volumes that large."

HERE have been numerous reports of fishermen in the Baltic dredging up chemical shells and being injured by contact with them.

Mr. Olson said that dumping of chemical munitions into the sea continued through the 1950s. The United States filled Liberty ships with chemical agents and scuttled them far from land.

Mr. Olson said recovering the chemicals in the North Sea and Baltic was "doable" — but at a cost.

"We have to decide how much we want to spend now for having done the expedient thing in the past," he said.

Help for Hair-Pulling Disorder

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For 14 years, Barbara K. could not resist the urge to pull the hairs from her head. She thought of herself as "sick, flawed, strange, lacking in willpower and self-control," she said.

"Until I was 23 years old, I thought I was the only person in the world with this problem," said Barbara, who asked that her last name not be used.

The compulsion began at 9, when her parents divorced and her father remarried. The repetitive behavior helped to keep painful thoughts about her family situation from flooding her mind.

At the same time, though, it trapped her in a vicious cycle: She would pull out her hair, then get mad at herself for doing it, which lowered her self-esteem and prompted her to pull some more.

Then in 1988 she came upon a book about obsessive-compulsive disorders, "The Boy Who Couldn't Stop Washing," by Dr. Judy Rapoport

(Plume). In it was a chapter describing Barbara's problem and giving it a name, trichotillomania, literally hair-pulling madness.

Just knowing she was not alone — an estimated 2 million to 4 million people in the United States alone are hair-pullers — helped lift her spirits, and the promise of possible treatments gave her the courage to seek professional help, which has eased, though not eliminated, her hair-pulling urges.

Trichotillomania typically starts either in early childhood, before the age of 6, or during adolescence and young adulthood, from about 13 to the early 20s. In early childhood it affects boys and girls about equally, but when it begins later, about 90 percent of patients are believed to be women.

However, recent evidence suggests the disorder may be much more common among men than is thought. Men are generally more reluctant to admit the problem and, because male baldness is so common, are better at covering it up.

Barbara, who has been active in support groups for several

years, explained that compulsive hair-pulling is not always set off by a traumatic event. It often starts with a minor incident that calls people's attention to their hair, like a sibling's pulling one's hair in a fight. Or the trigger can be something as simple as a habit of twirling one's hair; while reading. Once it starts, stress and anxiety can make it worse.

Behavioral characteristics of hair-pulling are remarkably similar to those of compulsive overeating. Hair-pulling is commonly done only when the person is alone. It is often done unconsciously, for example, while a person is reading, talking on the telephone or watching television.

Barbara said hair-pulling could be such a pleasurable experience that people were unwilling to try to stop.

Another useful approach is participation in a self-help group, which can reduce stress, relieve feelings of isolation and desperation and enhance self-esteem. As Barbara put it, "Groups can reduce the stigma and shame and increase people's awareness of what they're doing. Often that's all they need to modify their behavior."

IN BRIEF

Researchers Link Impotence and Smoking

NEW YORK (NYT) — Men who smoke cigarettes are 50 percent more likely than nonsmokers to become impotent before the age of 50, according to a survey of nearly 4,500 American veterans of the Vietnam War.

Among men who were smokers at the time of the telephone interview survey in 1985 and 1986, 3.7 percent reported being impotent, whereas only 2.2 percent of those who had never smoked and 2 percent of former smokers said they were impotent.

The researchers, headed by Dr. David M. Mammie of the National Center for Environmental Health in Atlanta, reported in *The American Journal of Epidemiology* that after they had adjusted their data for other factors that could cause impo-

tence, they found that "current smokers had 50 percent more reported impotence than nonsmokers."

A Psychiatric Manual For Young Children

NEW YORK (NYT) — Psychiatry is reaching into the cradle, with the publication of the first mental health diagnostic manual for problems in infants and toddlers up to 3 years old.

The manual, its authors say, fills a gap left by the focus of other diagnostic systems on older children and adults. It allows psychiatrists and pediatricians to spot the beginnings of behavioral difficulties that might become more serious if ignored.

The authors say the manual can help allay the concerns of parents, who may worry too much about their baby's fretting

or poor sleeping habits. The diagnostic categories specify when such problems are to be expected and when they may be the start of a developmental disorder.

Journal Established in U.S. For Alternative Medicine

WASHINGTON (WP) — The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine: Research on Paradigm, Practice and Policy debuts this month as the first peer-reviewed journal in the United States devoted to alternative medicine.

The quarterly journal hopes to bridge the perceived gap between holistic medicine and scientific rigor. It has gathered an editorial board of physiologists, botanists, epidemiologists and medical historians — including C. Everett Koop, a former surgeon general.

burst of grief: the commander they lost seemed more important to them than the triumph they had won."

Look in vain for that man in this book. What Hibbert, like Sontag, cares about instead is Nelson's infatuation with Emma Hamilton. They miss the point. Unlike Nelson's uncomprehending wife, Emma Hamilton offered him life. Flattery and attention — and the point — love. She gave him joy and they lived devotedly until a French sharpshooter's ball fatally pierced his backbone.

Carried down to the surgeon, Nelson ordered that his face be covered with a handkerchief so that his sailors would not be alarmed to see their admiral wounded. Dying, he ordered that medical attention be paid to a wounded midshipman.

These acts are textbook politics in Naples and his mooncall rambling around Europe are footnotes. Here's a cheer for the admiral, with one in the eye for the comisser and one for the scribbler.

The accounts of the battles of the Nile, Copenhagen and Trafalgar are not much better.

BOOKS

Nelson: A Personal History

By Christopher Hibbert. 472 pages. £20. Viking.

Reviewed by Samuel Abt

POOR Horatio Nelson: His valor grows offensive. Nearly two centuries after the great warrior was killed while winning the Battle of Trafalgar — 183 French and Spanish ships destroyed or captured, a century of British dominance at sea secured — the pygmies still blow darts of spite and grievance at his bones.

Susan Sontag led the attack three years ago in her agitprop novel "The Volcano Lover," refusing even to name Nelson. Her cardboard figure was simply "the Hero" and, of course, there was nothing heroic about

him. Ah, irony. At least Sontag's political agenda was clear: The manly (brrr!) Nelson, daring, courageous, impudent, the conquering hero, is intolerable in an androgynous age.

But what is Christopher Hibbert's problem? His disappointing "Nelson" has neither politics nor much of an agenda. A sense of respect is also absent. The truth appears to be that Hibbert does not like Nelson.

Sneide remarks abound. In the first 75 pages, Hibbert says Nelson "did entertain a good opinion of his own talents," wrote in a self-congratulatory vein, "self-righteously put it," exhibited "the most extravagant unctuousness" and verged "on self pity."

Hibbert is dull in the military bits, rushing without flair through such epic battles as Cape St. Vincent, where Nelson broke from the British formation to engage the Spanish fleet and, leaping from one another, captured two vessels.

Here is Oliver Warner, an earlier biographer in "Victory," on the start of combat: "Without a moment's hesitation, [Nelson] wore the 'Captain' out of the line, turned her before the wind

International Herald Tribune, Thursday, January 5, 1995

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THE TRIB INDEX: 111.44 DOW 0.25%

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index ©, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News. Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.

120

110

100

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

1994

1995

A S O N D J

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MARKET DIARY

Earnings Outlook Bolsters Stocks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — Stocks rose Wednesday as optimism about fourth-quarter earnings, particularly in the auto sector, countered losses in beverage and semiconductor stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 19.17 points higher, at 3,876.65. On the New York

U.S. Stocks

Stock Exchange, gains outnumbered declining ones by a 6-to-5 margin. Volume totaled about 32 million shares.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond price rose 24/32 point, to 95 31/32, bringing its yield down to 7.85 percent from 7.92 percent on Tuesday.

The rise in bonds was the first in five trading days. Traders said the dollar's rise against the yen sparked the rally.

Many investors were moving money from foreign securities to U.S. instruments, dealers said.

PepsiCo fell 1%, to 55¢, after an analyst lowered the rating of the beverage, snack food and restaurant company.

Semiconductor shares fell after an analyst said stock in

Applied Materials was fully valued and that the company had lost market share and profit margin. Applied Materials fell 14, to 40. Texas Instruments edged down 4¢, to 73, and Intel fell 1¢, to 63¢.

Mexican and other Latin American shares fell after some investors concluded that Mexico's new economic plan did not go far enough to resolve the country's financial crisis. Telefonos de México was the most active issue on the Big Board, with its American depositary receipts ending at 37¢, down 3¢. Grupo Televisa ADRs fell 1%, to 28¢.

Auto shares rose after Salomon Brothers raised fourth-quarter earnings estimates. Chrysler jumped 2, to 51, and General Motors rose 1¢, to 43¢.

Dell computer climbed 2¢, to 42¢, after the company said it had completed the conversion of its OptiPlex product line to Intel's updated Pentium chip, which corrects the earlier chip's flaw.

Dow Chemical jumped 2¢, to 68¢, and Union Carbide rose 1½, to 29¢.

(Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

Rate-Rise Expectations Lift Dollar Against Yen

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — The dollar rose to a four-month high against the yen on Wednesday as traders bet that the Federal Reserve Board would raise interest rates at the end of the month.

"Everyone is waiting for the Fed to move," said Richard Koss, currency sales manager at

Foreign Exchange

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in New York. "The only question is whether it will be 50 or 75 basis points."

He said that to best capitalize on a rate rise, investors should sell Japanese assets because U.S. rates already were so much higher than in Japan. For example, 10-year U.S. Treasury notes are now yielding 7.81 percent, while their Japanese counterparts yield just 4.56 percent.

That differential caused international investors to sell Japanese bonds and buy U.S. securities on Wednesday. Such activity entails buying dollars and dumping yen.

The dollar closed here at 101.375 yen, up from 100.665

yesterday, and at 1,5593 Deutsche marks, up from 1,5570. The dollar rose to 5.370 French francs from 5.367 and slipped to 1,3102 Swiss francs from 1,3148 francs. The pound edged down to \$1.5605 from \$1.5630.

The dollar also drew support from news that the long-stalled U.S.-Japan car negotiations would resume later this month.

"The trade negotiations will continue and, with both governments willing to do the right thing, trade frictions will not become such a major factor in foreign exchange," said Scott Pardee, an analyst with Yamaichi International.

U.S. employment data, due Friday, are likely to offer further evidence of a rapidly growing economy, traders said. That would give the Fed further ammunition to justify a rate increase to head off inflation before it begins to accelerate.

The Federal Reserve's policy-making Open Market Committee next meets on Jan. 31, and rate increase is in the process of being priced into financial markets.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

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"The trade negotiations will continue and, with both governments willing to do the right thing, trade frictions will not become such a major factor in foreign exchange," said Scott Pardee, an analyst with Yamaichi International.

U.S. employment data, due

Friday, are likely to offer further evidence of a rapidly growing economy, traders said. That would give the Fed further ammunition to justify a rate increase to head off inflation before it begins to accelerate.

The Federal Reserve's policy-making Open Market Committee next meets on Jan. 31, and rate increase is in the process of being priced into financial markets.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Agence France Presse Jan. 4

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Bank of Spain Asserts Itself With Rate Rise

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MADRID — The Bank of Spain made a preemptive strike Wednesday against inflation by raising its benchmark interest rate for the first time in more than two years.

The decision to raise the marginal rate on securities repurchase certificates to 8 percent from 7.5 percent was the first action by the central bank to head off inflation since it won independence from the government at the start of the year.

Major commercial banks raised their preferential rates, similar to the prime rate, after the central bank move. Banco Bilbao Vizcaya and Banco Central Hispanoamericano increased rates to 8.5 percent from 7.85 percent and Banco Santander lifted its rate to 8 percent from 7.75 percent.

Although analysts said the move had come earlier than expected and may anger further increases in the market reaction was subdued. The yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond edged up to 11.78 percent from 11.76 percent on Tuesday, while the Madrid General Index slipped 0.19 percent, to 287.32.

The Deutsche mark, which rose last week to a record high against the peseta, climbed slightly to 84.94 pesetas on Wednesday from 84.72 on Tuesday.

"With this decision only

three days after its autonomy came into effect, the BOS is going to show that it's going to take inflation seriously," said José Juan Ruiz, chief economist at the state banking corporation Argentina's Corporación Bancaria de España SA.

"The size of the increase sends a strong message to the markets that the Bank of Spain wants to be ahead of problems," he said.

The central bank said its rate increase was meant to "avoid, in advance, any persistent deviation of inflation from the goals that have been set."

The bank noted that consumer price inflation, which had been rising at an annual rate of 4.4 percent in the year to November, had been moderating in recent months from the rate of 4.9 percent for 1993.

It said that consumer inflation might be driven up by a 1 percent increase in value-added tax, rising luxury taxes and the recent depreciation of the peseta.

Though it comes on the heels of commercial-bank rate increases in France last week, Spain's decision was seen as a purely domestic move in which the central bank has sought to impose monetary discipline.

The rate increase followed similar moves by Finland on Dec. 6 and on Dec. 29, and by Sweden Dec. 9.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

Battle of Britain in U.S.

Virgin Targets BA in \$1 Billion Dogfight

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — After humbling British Airways in a libel suit in Britain two years ago, Richard Branson said he was reluctant to air his rival's dirty laundry in the United States as well. But now Mr. Branson says he plans to take BA to the cleaners — possibly to the tune of \$1 billion.

The flamboyant chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways said Tuesday evening he would "pursue maximum damages" in his \$325 million suit against BA for unfair and anticompetitive practices in trans-Atlantic air travel.

Mr. Branson's statement followed a U.S. judge's ruling Tuesday that the antitrust suit could proceed, rejecting BA's request to throw out the case on jurisdictional grounds.

District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum also ruled that BA had to answer charges that it had monopolized trans-Atlantic routes, abused its dominant position at Heathrow and Gatwick airports near London, and restrained trade by offering discount corporate air fares.

Judge Cedarbaum dismissed five other Virgin complaints, including a challenge to BA's 24.6-percent ownership of USAir, the sixth-largest U.S. airline. Last year, Virgin got access to domestic U.S. routes via an alliance with Delta Air Lines.

Virgin's claim for \$325 million in damages would automatically triple under U.S. antitrust law if the case succeeds. In addition, BA would be liable for the costs of the case, including Virgin's legal fees.

BA, which had dismissed the allegations as a "litany of old grievances" and "a quintessentially English dispute," scoffed at Virgin's chances of making the charges stick.

Lawyers said the legal wrangling could last up to five years.

The U.S. court clash is the latest chapter in a long-running saga between BA, the world's largest international carrier, and Virgin, a

relative upstart that is Britain's second-largest long-haul carrier.

In January 1993, BA paid Virgin £800,000 (\$1.26 billion) in libel damages and costs after admitting to a number of "regrettable incidents," including planting negative stories about Virgin in the press, obtaining confidential data from Virgin computers and posing passengers.

The suit was a humiliation for BA and its then-chairman, Lord King, who took early retirement in February 1993 in the wake of the scandal. Lord King once confessed to have

A U.S. judge's decision forces BA to answer charges of monopolizing trans-Atlantic routes.

underestimated Mr. Branson because he had a beard and wore a sweater rather than a suit. The two companies have just begun a price war, halving their fares to the United States and Asia by up to 50 percent.

One aviation analyst said Virgin had little chance of proving that BA had monopolized the trans-Atlantic business, since so many carriers flew those routes. He added that proving abuse of BA's position at Heathrow and Gatwick would also be difficult when some U.S. carriers had even larger positions at some U.S. airports.

Industry analysts said they expected little impact on BA while the court case drags on. But, as one observer said, "in the worst-case scenario, if BA lose, they could face damages of several hundred million dollars and that isn't going to be treated very kindly" by investors.

(Reuters, AFP)

James D. Dougherty, who follows the agency industry for Dean Witter Reynolds, said Mr. Saatchi "had a number of opportunities to prove he was extremely valuable to the company — and he came up short in all of them."

Even so, Mr. Saatchi worked hard at wounding Saatchi & Saatchi by drawing out his exit over a holiday period when news was scarce, thereby maximizing the coverage he would attract. He also issued a sarcastic farewell note and predicted a lawsuit "for breach of fiduciary duty" against the Saatchi & Saatchi directors

anger among institutional shareholders that prompted Mr. Saatchi's downfall, they said, would make financing scarce for any future large-scale Saatchi ventures.

Mr. Zedillo, they may also look large for President Bill Clinton.

After a contentious debate in the weeks before its passage, the North American trade agreement faded as an issue, costing Mr. Clinton little. But that calculation may now change, especially in Texas and California, two states that are critical to his re-election hopes. Many residents there are among those most suspicious that they are paying the price for helping Mexico overcome its problems.

Opponents of the trade accord, who said American workers would be hurt more than they were helped, are likely to look a lot more prescient in coming months than they have so far if the flow of both low-priced goods and low-wage immigrants from Mexico to the United States sharply increases. Certainly there is good news as well for Washington in the economic recovery package announced Tuesday by Mr. Zedillo, who has been in office for less than a month. Mr. Zedillo's insistence that unions agree to wage increases of no more than 7 percent, and that corporations keep profits minimal in an effort to keep prices down, seem likely to cut off the momentum of devaluation and inflation that many feared could spin out of control.

More importantly, Mr. Zedillo has chosen to speed changes in the economy that the North American Free Trade Accord set in motion. He is allowing

who bowed to the demands of the dissatisfied large shareholders to dismiss him.

"Saatchi & Saatchi has been taken over," Mr. Saatchi wrote in his statement, formally refusing an offer the directors made after his deposition of the figurehead chairmanship of one of three main Saatchi & Saatchi agencies, Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide, and to have the ceremonial title of honorary co-president along with his brother, Charles.

"It's hard to make a case for this being a damaging event unless you're him," said David Herro, who led the American and British institutional investors in their successful revolt and who is portfolio manager of the Oakmark International Fund, which owns 9.5 percent of Saatchi & Saatchi's shares.

Continued from Page 9

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NAFTA: The Dark Side Looms

Continued from Page 9

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increased private investment in railroads and satellite operations, promising to further liberalize foreign investment rules and promoting more competition in domestic telephone services.

All those steps are likely to eventually benefit American companies racing for a firmer foothold in the Mexican economy.

In some areas, Mr. Zedillo is handing America openings it sought — and was denied — when the trade agreement was negotiated under President George Bush.

The Mexican president is also hoping to wean his country from its dependence on short-term investments to finance its current-account deficit. Those investments make the economy more vulnerable to market speculators, who helped send the peso on its wild fall.

Instead, Mr. Zedillo hopes to pay for Mexico's deficit with investment from foreign companies, getting them to build factories and businesses in the country. That may be more attractive than ever, because the cost of investing has declined by a third.

But companies will have to be convinced that Mr. Zedillo has the unions and the country's elite behind him. They also have to be persuaded that they will not suffer a similar fate to that of Mexico's pioneer investors.

Those, who have been hit with millions of dollars in losses in the last two weeks. They must also learn to live with slower growth.

Continued from Page 9

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MEXICO: Markets Snub Proposal

Continued from Page 9

from cash-strapped workers, decide to pull out of the wage-price pact.

Stock analysts said this particularly tenuous aspect of Mr. Zedillo's plan was among the main reasons for Wednesday's negative market reaction.

Mexico's main stock market index responded immediately to the Tuesday speech by nose-diving in the final half-hour of trading on a day plagued by uncertainty over the president's difficulties winning support from business and labor leaders for his plan. After declining 3.22 percent on Tuesday, the IPC index of leading shares

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started with another steep decline of about 5.7 percent on Wednesday, touching an eight-month low, although much of the lost ground was made up late in the day. At the close, the index was down 8.60 points, or 0.4 percent, at 2,269.87.

One market analyst said the market reaction could have been moderated significantly if Mr. Zedillo had provided more timely information on specifics of the emergency package, as well as details of the \$18 billion in international support.

"Is this it? Is this the best they can do?" the analyst said after Mr. Zedillo's speech. "Everyone in my office watched it on television, and when it was over, nobody said a word. To say it was disappointing would be the understatement of the year."

Continued on Page 12

Eurotunnel Usage Data Lift Stock

Bloomberg Business News

PARIS — Eurotunnel shares jumped 5 percent Wednesday after the company released figures that indicated it was offering stiff competition to the cross-Channel ferry companies.

Eurotunnel's major rival,

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., which operates

European Ferries Ltd., saw its

shares plunge 12 percent, or 2

percent, to 595 pence (\$9.30).

Stock in Eurotunnel rose to 308

pence from 293 pence.

Eurotunnel, the British-French company that built and operates a rail service under the English Channel, said that

65,000 heavy vehicles, 82,000

cars, 700 Eurostar trains and

1,200 freight trains had traveled

through the Channel tunnel

since it opened in June.

Unless the tunnel "collapses

tomorrow, it's fair to say" the

company's major problems

"are behind it," Michael Cohen, an analyst with Salomon Brothers International Ltd., said.

The company said frequency

and capacity would increase

during the first quarter, building

to the peak summer season.

David Wilson, a spokesman for

Peninsular & Oriental, said it

was "ironic" that his company's

shares are down at a time

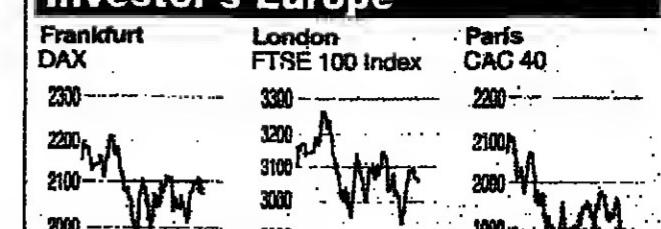
when it transported a record

number of passengers, cars and

freight units across the channel for the fifth consecutive year.

"Demand for all the company's services has been established," Mr. Cohen of Salomon Brothers said.

Investor's Europe



Prime Minister Defends India's Reform Policies

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CALCUTTA — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of India defended his free-market economic reforms on Wednesday, rejecting opposition claims that his policies have hurt the poor and sold out the country to foreign investors.

In his first major speech since governing Congress (I) Party suffered a crushing defeat in three state elections late last year, Mr. Rao said he would "move forward with confidence" on the reforms.

Mr. Rao's address to the Confederation of Indian Industry, which represents 3,000 private and state-owned companies, left little doubt he would continue dismantling barriers to foreign investment.

The prime minister said India could not stand by while business barriers came down across the rest of the world. "We cannot remain an island but have to see ourselves as part of the global system," he told an audience of 1,500 businessmen and politicians from 43 countries.

Mr. Rao's three-year reform program has opened India's socialist economy to investment by multinational companies, especially from the West, and has improved the nation's import and export markets. India's inflation, however, has recently hit double digits.

"I am aware that the path of reforms is not a bed of roses," Mr. Rao said. "But like many countries which have attempted liberalization, have worked

through it and have performed economic miracles, I am convinced that this is also the appropriate approach for us."

Mr. Rao has come under pressure from critics within his ruling Congress (I) Party to slow down the liberalization drive and increase welfare benefits to the poor.

Congress (I) was trounced in state elections last month and faces tough battles in five more states early this year. National elections are due in 1996.

Mr. Rao brushed aside critics who claim his three-year economic reform program has neglected the poor and allowed foreigners to buy up the country's natural resources.

Ninety percent of the foreign investment proposals have been for ventures with Indian entrepreneurs, mostly in the power, petroleum, metallurgy and electronics sectors, Mr. Rao said.

"Neither are we being swamped nor are we selling away our country," he said, adding that the volume of foreign investment was still well below India's needs.

Mr. Rao said the government had nearly tripled the allocation for rural development over the next five years, from 110 billion rupees (\$3.51 billion) currently.

Sectors of the economy that had not yet benefitted from economic reform, such as small business, would continue to receive special aid packages, Mr. Rao said.

(AP, Reuters, AFP)

MIM Chairman Will Resign

Bloomberg Business News

BRISBANE, Australia — Norm Fossell, chief executive of MIM Holdings Ltd., the country's fourth-largest mining company, said Wednesday he would resign effective Friday.

In an unexpected announcement, Mr. Fossell said he wanted "to look more to enjoyment of life and one's health."

MIM posted a loss of \$195.1 million Australian dollars (\$150 million) for the year ended June 26, on writedowns of assets acquired from debt-ridden Metallgesellschaft AG in Germany.

HONG KONG — China has issued a warning to foreign-funded advertising firms to obey strict new guidelines regulating their conduct or face closure, a report said Wednesday.

Liu Baofu, who is in charge of administering advertising businesses under the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, said some of the 180 foreign-funded advertising firms operating in China have "disrupted the normal order of the domestic advertising business by conducting illegal businesses and unfair competition," the official China Daily reported.

The newspaper did not provide examples of improper advertising. The new guidelines came into effect this week and are the first to regulate foreign-funded agencies in China.

According to the China Daily, the rules are aimed at binding companies to agreements they signed when starting up operations in China, including commitments to introduce advanced foreign techniques and equipment.

"It has been found out that some of the joint ventures or cooperation advertising firms had conducted businesses without reaching the conditions and qualities required by the state," the paper quoted Mr. Liu as saying.

In October, China announced a ban on tobacco advertising in news media and public places.

The ban will take effect Feb. 1. The government also stipulated that any ads that are permitted must carry the warning "Smoking is hazardous to your health." (AFP, Bloomberg)

Taiwan-China Bank Deal

The Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, and Chiao Tung Bank Ltd. of Taiwan are to sign the first banking agreement between the two rival countries since Taiwan eased restrictions last August, Agence France-Presse reported from Singapore.

"We confirm that the signing is on Jan. 10," said Zhao Liang, general manager of the Singapore branch of the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China. He said the two banks would be able to conduct transactions in all currencies except the Taiwan dollar and the Chinese yuan. Both banks are state-owned.

Last August, Taipei partially lifted a ban on bidding Taiwan banks from dealing with Chinese financial institutions.

The ban was eased following complaints by Taiwan investors that restrictions increased the cost of doing business with China because transactions had to be done through third-party banks in third countries.

Now, China-Taiwan transactions can be conducted through overseas branches of Taiwan and Chinese banks, but the deals must be denominated in currencies other than the Taiwan dollar and the yuan.

Investor's Asia

	Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
11000	200	2000	2000
10000	2300	2100	2000
9000	2200	2000	1900
8000	2100	1900	1800
7000	2000	1800	1700
A S O N O J 1994	A S O N O J 1995	A S O N D J 1994	A S O N D J 1995
Exchange Index	Wednesday Prev. Close	% Change	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng	7,887.01	7,844.14	+0.55
Singapore Straits Times	2,244.14	2,246.26	+0.09
Sydney All Ordinaries	1,885.20	1,864.90	-0.65
Tokyo Nikkei 225	19,594.04	19,723.05	+0.20
Kuala Lumpur Composite	957.81	969.76	+1.23
Bangkok SET	1,360.53	1,364.05	+0.49
Seoul Composite Stock	997.01	1,013.57	+1.63
Taipei Weighted Price	Closed	7,124.00	-
Manila PSE	2,771.97	2,805.26	+1.19
Jakarta Stock Index	474.49	472.38	-0.45
New Zealand NZSE-40	1,988.11	1,914.24	-0.42
Bombay National Index	1,845.49	1,857.17	+0.63

Sources: Reuters, AFP

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

■ Tokyo and Washington have agreed to resume talks on foreign access to Japan's auto market, possibly in late January, according to Ryutaro Hashimoto, the trade minister of Japan.

■ Saem Industrial Co., a South Korean auto parts producer, plans to build a plant with Heilbo Co., a farm truck maker, in Shandong province, China, to assemble minivans and small farm trucks.

■ Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp., China's largest carmaker, will team up with another Chinese company to produce a family car that would cost 70,000 yuan (\$8,200).

■ San Miguel Corp. of the Philippines said it was building a brewery in Hong Kong's Yuen Long industrial zone to strengthen its share in the growing Chinese beer market.

■ South Korea's Securities Supervisory Board said foreigners bought \$1.1 billion of South Korean stocks last year, down from \$5.3 billion in 1993 because of limits on foreign ownership.

■ Suzuki Motor Corp. and Nissho Iwai Corp. will form a venture in Vietnam around March to assemble small trucks and vans for the country's fast-growing market.

AP, AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

China's Factories Lack Safety

Reuters

BEIJING — A growing number of factories in China are making employees work with dangerous materials in unsafe plants to try to earn quick profits, the Legal Daily said Wednesday.

Officials inspected 472 factories and mines, including foreign-funded enterprises, in northern Hebei province recently and found that 58.5 percent of the employees were working in conditions hazardous to their health, the paper said.

"Some managers of enterprises seek short-term benefits at the expense of production safety. Others don't even have basic knowledge of production safety," it said.

In June, at least 45 people were killed in factory accidents, it said.

Beijing To Crack Down on Foreign Ad Ventures

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

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PARIS PROMO

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This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

15 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE %S High Low Last Chg %C

A

15 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE %S High Low Last Chg %C

B

15 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE %S High Low Last Chg %C

C

17 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	%S	High	Low	Last Chg	%C	15 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	%S	High	Low	Last Chg	%C	17 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	%S	High	Low	Last Chg	%C	12 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	%S	High	Low	Last Chg	%C		
1514 7% AACOM					19	133	124	-1%	131	14				25	19	102	-2%	104	22	1478	72	3.7	18	115	22	28	-1%	-1%	186	16				186	16		
2104 12% ABColl					20	124	116	-1%	116	14				20	21	110	-1%	110	22	1478	72	3.7	18	115	22	28	-1%	-1%	186	16				186	16		
2104 12% ABT Bld					150	11	10	-1%	10	14				20	21	110	-1%	110	22	1478	72	3.7	18	115	22	28	-1%	-1%	186	16				186	16		
2104 12% ACI Ent					150	11	10	-1%	10	14				20	21	110	-1%	110	22	1478	72	3.7	18	115	22	28	-1%	-1%	186	16				186	16		
2104 22% ADC Tech					150	11	10	-1%	10	14				20	21	110	-1%	110	22	1478	72	3.7	18	115	22	28	-1%	-1%	186	16				186	16		
2114 12% ADP Inc					150	11	10	-1%	10	14				20	21	110	-1%	110	22	1478	72	3.7	18	115	22	28	-1%	-1%	186	16				186	16		
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SPORTS

Dominant Massachusetts Drubs West Virginia

The Associated Press

There are signs when you know your team has had a rough night. One could be when your opponent had more blocked shots than you had field goals. Another might be when your opponent had more 3-pointers in the first half than you had any kind of field goals.

Both those things happened to West Virginia on Tuesday night in a 95-65 loss to No. 4 Massachusetts, and then the Mountaineers' coach, Gale Catlett, went to the boxscore to find yet another nightmare number.

"It's a staggering statistic when you see that only one of UMass' starters played more than 20 minutes," Catlett said.

Massachusetts (6-1) was impressive on both ends of the court.

Its 20 blocked shots were an Atlantic-10 record and were just one shy of Georgetown's NCAA record set in December 1993 against Southern of New Orleans.

The Minutemen made 13 3-pointers, one off the school mark, and led by as least 26 points the entire second half.

"In the past we had teams that people said couldn't shoot," said Lou Roe, who had 13 points in 15 minutes. "Adding that shooting just puts us up to another level."

So do the blocked shots.

Marcus Camby, a 6-foot-11 (2.1-meter) sophomore center, had five blocks while 6-8 fours Norville and 6-6 Donta Bright

had four each and 7-2 Jeff Meyer three.

"We've always played with 6-foot-5 or 6-foot-6 centers," Massachusetts' coach, John Calipari, said. "Now all of a sudden people are playing the same way and driving into guys who are 7-footers who can jump."

West Virginia (4-4) finished the game with 18 field goals in 74 attempts (24 percent) and the Mountaineers had 10 3-pointers.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

ers in taking a 58-29 halftime lead in the conference opener for both teams.

Massachusetts was led by guards Edgar Padilla with 17 points and Carmelo Travieso with 15. An ankle injury sidelined Mike Williams, the Minutemen's top-scoring guard.

West Virginia was paced by Seldon Jefferson with 20 points and its top scorer, Zain Shaw, had three points in 20 minutes.

The Minutemen made 10 of 15 3-pointers in the first half, while West Virginia made only eight of 29 field goals.

Hitting 3-pointers "takes the air out of the other team's sails," Calipari said. "It's nice to let the other teams know if they can stop us one way, they can't stop us the other way. We can always hit from the outside as well as from the inside."

No. 5 Kansas 105, East Tennessee St. 73: Freshman Rae LaFrentz had 20 points and eight rebounds and senior Greg

No. 12 Georgetown 55, Pittsburgh 46: The Hoyas (8-1, 2-0) won their eighth in a row as they forced Pittsburgh (4-6, 0-2) into a Big East-record 35 turnovers. Freshman Allen Iverson

had 15 points to lead the visiting Hoyas.

Louisiana St. 70, No. 13 Florida 66: Randy Livingston scored 22 points and made five of six free throws in the final minute as the Tigers (7-3) led



Bill Cartwright (left) and Detlef Schrempf cornered the fallen center Gheorghe Muresan as Seattle posted its 11th straight victory over host Washington in an NBA game.

had 15 points to lead the visiting Gators (6-3) in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams.

Cal-Santa Barbara 75, No. 20 New Mexico St. 65: Lelan McDougal scored 17 points to lead the Gauchos (6-2) in the

off the visiting Gators (6-3) in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams.

Big West opener for both teams that saw visiting New Mexico State's four-game winning streak snapped. The Aggies (9-3) were held to 35 percent shooting after averaging 51 percent during the winning streak.

NHL Talks Continue With No Details Given

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CHICAGO — Mid-level talks between representatives of the National Hockey League and the players' union aimed at resolving the 96-day lockout continued for a fourth day Wednesday, with neither side discussing any details.

"They're still talking," said Arthur Pincus, a spokesman for the NHL, after the talks broke up early Tuesday evening after 8½ hours of discussions.

"There are only six guys who know what is going on — the four guys in the room, along with Bob Goodenow and Gary Bettman," Toronto's general manager, Cliff Fletcher, told the Canadian Press. "The rest is all speculation, and it's all over the map."

The two sides are working against a Jan. 16 deadline to start a 50-game season that was set last month by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman.

To start a season by then probably requires a new collective bargaining deal this week to allow for a seven-to-10-day training camp.

Attending the sessions since Sunday have been two NHL executives, Brian Burke and Jeffrey Pash, and two union lawyers, John McCambridge and Bob Riley.

Bettman and Bob Goodenow, the union's executive director, have not met since their talks broke down Dec. 6.

(NYT, AP)

An Opening Day in Congress

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Opening day in Congress could produce more baseball than opening day of the 1995 major league season.

On the first day of the 104th Congress, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, and Representative Michael Bilirakis, Republican of Florida, initiated action in their respective legislative bodies on bills that would strip major league baseball of its exemption from antitrust laws.

In addition, Bilirakis will introduce a bill that would void baseball's exemption under the sports broadcasting act.

"The antitrust exemption allows the owners to act as a cartel," said Moynihan, who will work with the Senate Judiciary Committee's chairman, Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah.

Hatch, who has become an outspoken critic of the owners over their actions, is expected to hold a hearing on the bill later this month. It proposes that Congress find that "the business of organized professional baseball is in, or affects, interstate commerce" — the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1922 it wasn't — and that the antitrust laws should be amended to reverse the result of that decision as well as Supreme Court decisions in 1953 and 1972.

For Some Teams, Free Agency Paid

By Thomas George
New York Times Service

Francisco keeps making big bucks and he is a solid, unifying component in the locker room.

PITTSBURGH — Defensive end Ray Seals from Tampa Bay led the Steelers' linemen in tackles with 40 and contributed seven sacks.

CHICAGO — It spent big bucks for quarterback Erik

Kramer from Detroit, but wiser and fewer bucks on starter Steve Walsh from New Orleans.

SAN FRANCISCO — Cornerback Deion Sanders from Atlanta has given the defense the glitz and glitter that Jerry Rice gives the offense, plus a similar performance.

GREEN BAY — Defensive end Sean Jones from Houston.

INTELLIGENT, dedicated and a quick and nifty complement to Reggie White.

DALLAS — Offensive guard Derick Kennard from New Orleans has started every game.

Only three weeks ago, the San Diego Chargers were in disarray. They had lost to the Raiders at home on a Monday night and, after a 6-0 start, that

defeat and another one the following week to San Francisco by 38-15 foiled their attempt to reach the AFC West. It looked as if the old Chargers were resurfacing. Could the Chargers lose their final two games and blow the title? Even miss the playoffs?

Credit Coach Bobby Ross and his players for turning hand-wringing and despair into victory.

The Chargers began taking a long look at themselves. They started so quickly that for the younger players, this season looked easy. They began sticking their chests out and stopped paying attention to detail. The ship could easily have sunk.

It did not. And now the Chargers play at home against Miami on Sunday. And if they win and Pittsburgh beats Cleveland, they go to Pittsburgh. They beat the Steelers in San Diego in the regular-season finale by 37-34, although Greg Lloyd and Rod Woodson didn't play.

The Chargers must feel good about their chances and themselves. But that could be a problem. Not too good, guys.

In a Heated Race, Jazz and Rockets Win

The Associated Press

With consistent play and balanced scoring, the Utah Jazz and the Houston Rockets are waging the National Basketball Association's tightest divisional battle.

Utah held on to its half-game lead over Houston with a 123-91 victory over Milwaukee, while the Rockets beat Dallas, 110-98, Tuesday night.

The Jazz had eight players in double figures, including Jeff Hornacek, with 18 points, in winning for the ninth time in 10 games.

"It's about winning now, not about who gets the shots," said forward Karl Malone, who scored 14 and had a team-high seven assists.

The Rockets are content to let Hakeem Olajuwon get the shots, although Robert Horry and Sam Cassell scored 18 points apiece. Against the Mavericks, Olajuwon had 41 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks.

"Hakeem is just amazing," said the Rockets' coach, Rudy Tomjanovich. "It's got to frustrate people. We go to him so much. It's not a real tough coaching decision to get the ball to him."

Olajuwon scored 18 of his team's 25 fourth-quarter points to hold off a Dallas rally.

The Mavericks held by as many as 20 points late in the game, but answered with a 17-2 run. Olajuwon scored the next six points to push Houston's

advantage to 103-94 with 3:23 remaining.

Jim Jackson scored 27 points and Roy Tarpley added 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Mavericks.

Utah defeated Milwaukee for the seventh straight time.

Glen Robinson led the visiting Bucks with 24 points, but committed nine turnovers. Vin Baker added 14 points.

For Utah, Bryon Russell had 17 points, Adam Keefe 16, John Stockton 15, John Crotty 14, Antoine Carr 13 and Felton Spencer 10.

SuperSonics 121, Bullets 107: Long-range shooting by Detlef Schrempf and Sarunas Marciulionis helped Seattle pull away to its 11th straight victory over Washington in Landover, Maryland.

Gary Payton led Seattle with

24 points, while Schrempf and Marciulionis each scored 18, at Calbert Cheaney scored 23 for the Bullets, who haven't beaten Seattle since March 1989.

Trail Blazers 103, Hawks 98: Lemoyne Wilkins' pursuit of a record-setting 939th victory goes on after Portland withstood a rally to win in Atlanta.

It was the second time Wilkins had a chance to overtake Red Auerbach for regular-season career coaching victories, but he has another chance to break the mark Wednesday night in New York.

Clifford Robinson had 30 points, and Clyde Drexler made five free throws in the final 1:02 for the victory. Drexler finished with 19 points.

Suns 108, Kings 100: Charles Barkley scored 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter as Phoenix ended Sacramento's four-game home winning streak.

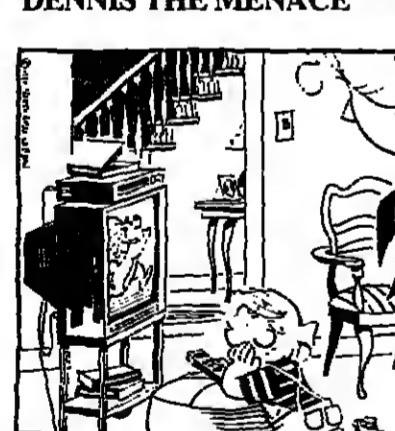
Elliott Perry, starting for the injured Kevin Johnson, added 17 points for the Suns.

Spud Webb scored a season-high 23 points for Sacramento, which made only three of its first 13 shots in the fourth quarter.

Chuck Person hit a 3-pointer with 52 seconds left, but his only points of the game, breaking a tie and giving visiting San Antonio its ninth win in 10 games.

DENNIS THE MENACE

PEANUTS



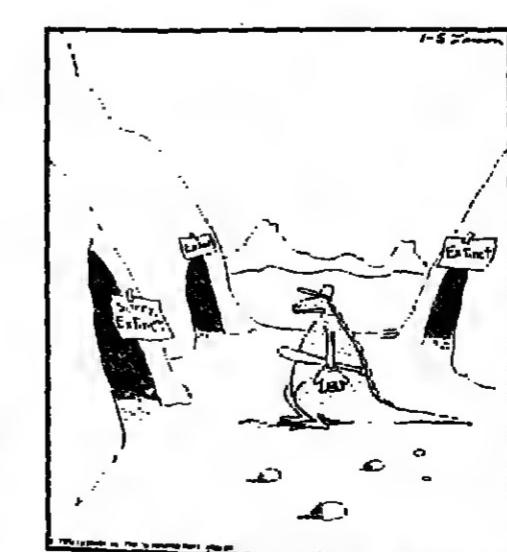
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Suddenly, Bobby felt very alone in the world.

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by Howard Wexler and Leslie Hite
Illustrations by Jim Davis
Puzzles by Jim Davis
Answers by Howard Wexler, Molley Water, Family
Newspaper
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70 years \$840.95
71 years \$852.95
72 years \$864.95
73 years \$876.95
74 years \$888.95
75 years \$890.95
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SPORTS

The Brits' Folly

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Two men on holiday in the Caribbean decide it is time to come in from the sun. Their attention for the next couple of hours is on the television channel tuned to a far off station. And as they settled, glasses fully charged, Alan Sugar and David Dein might toasted the 28,747 souls sitting as still as ice sculptures at Monday's Tottenham Hotspur versus Arsenal match in arctic London.

Sugar and Dein are the teams' absent overlords. Those braving the cold are the supporters of Tottenham and Arsenal, the two big clubs engaged in annual rites for which soccer is an over-simplistic term. The Spurs against the Gunners is akin to tribal feuding, and has been so for the better part of this century. Folks in Milan, Cairo or Buenos Aires, or wherever the culture of "derby" matches has spread, may think they experience similarly intense neighborhood emotions. But this is special, this is deep.

Those who wear Tottenham white have resentment bred into them. It was handed down, father to son, from the early 1900s, when Arsenal moved from its ammunitions factory site south of the river to squat on Spurs' territory north of the Thames. Worse, Tottenham historians tell of the spring of 1919, when, after the war ended, Arsenal took what belonged to Tottenham.

Through the persuasion of its property developer chairman, Sir Henry Norris, Arsenal acquired a place in Division One of the reformed English League. Tottenham was demoted to Division Two. There was nothing honorable about this. Before the war, Tottenham had been established among the elite while Arsenal was sixth in the lower division.

Sugar has worked his way up from East End harrow boy to multi-millionaire salesman of computers and satellite dishes. Dein earned a smaller fortune as a commodities broker, notably in raw sugar. But while Sugar, a relatively late and controversial soccer convert, has thrown millions into restructuring his team, Dein has beavered away for many years to provide Arsenal with an awesome stadium and formidable team. Dein is vice-chairman at Arsenal in name only. The club dynamically passes the chair down the Old Etonian Hill-Wood family, but Dein is the full-time power behind the throne.)

Yet there were many at Tottenham's White Hart Lane on Monday who doubted that either Sugar or Dein is a fan in true sense of the word. Fans suffer with their teams; how could a real fan take a holiday when Tottenham Hotspur plays Arsenal?

Let me describe Monday's delights. Indeed, let's begin with Christmas week, when the English embark on a perishing madness unknown elsewhere in Europe. Sensible Europeans take Christmas at home. Their players are freed for the indulgences and celebrations of most of mankind, and take the longest respite their bodies get in a year of interminable wear and tear.

Now the Brits. Because of tradition, possibly because British families grow fractious in one another's company, their footballers put on not one, not two or three, but four professional performances during the seven days from Boxing Day to Jan. 2.

There were, this New Years, 156 games played, a dozen frozen off, plus hundreds of semi-professional matches. The appetite of the fans is insatiable, the profits enormous, but it is excruciating seeing the few thoroughbreds amidst the frenzy of English soccer ground to exhaustion. Excruciating and cold. And given the lack of public transport, for it was a bus driver's holiday, we sithered and bumped our cars on untreated icy roads to get there.

"It resembled motorized ballet," said an observer from the Royal Automobile Association, those who watch like Samaritans of the road.

Once inside White Hart Lane, clutching plastic cups of Bovril, huddling together for warmth, regretting the day the lords of the sport decreed all shall be seated, we were treated to ...

Organized fatigue. Arsenal's team, the European Cup Winners' Cup victor last season, is stale and disturbed. With only two victories in 12 games, it plummets toward a relegation zone not experienced by Arsenal since the uplift arranged three-quarters of a century ago.

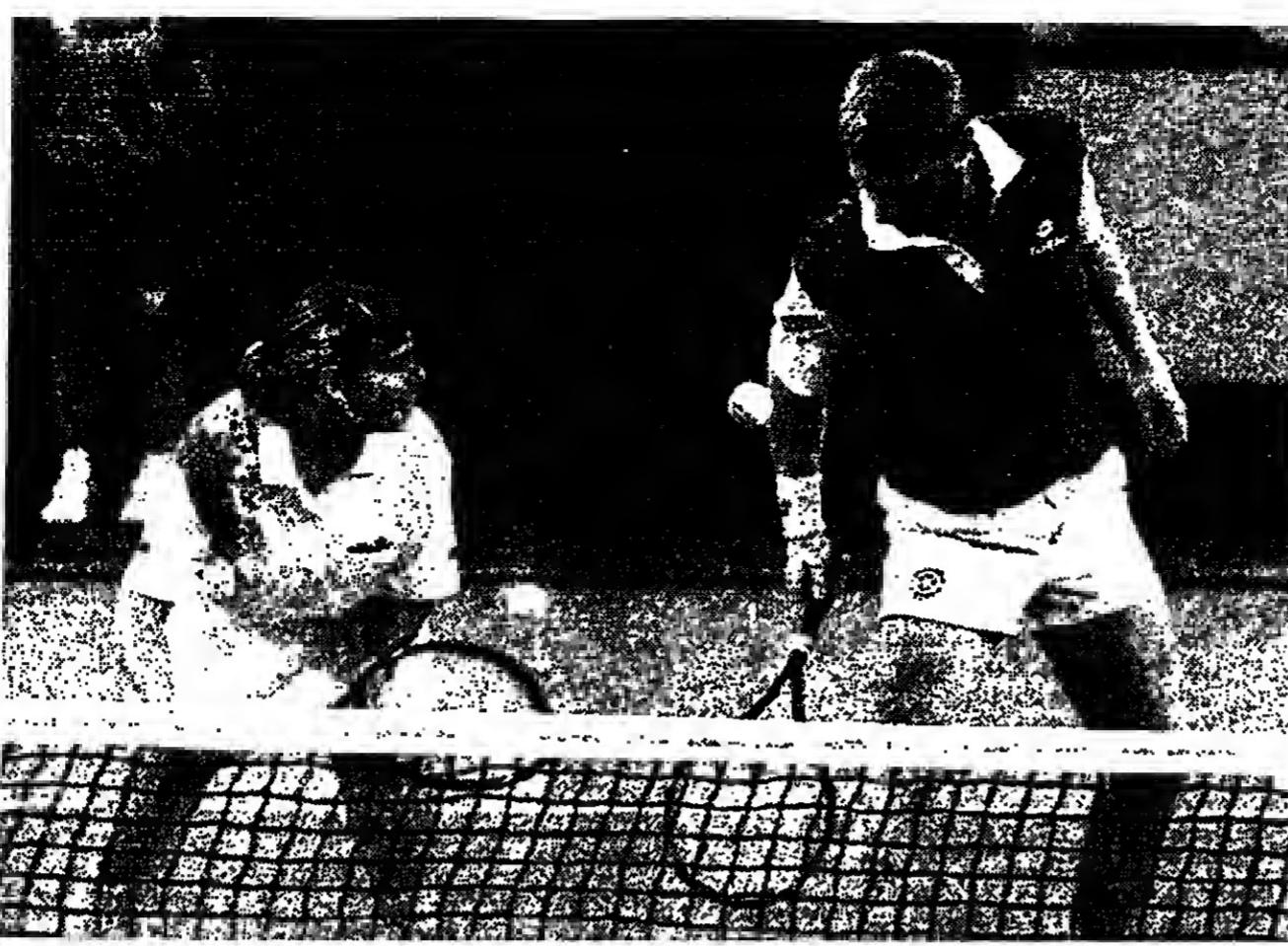
Tottenham, by contrast, is rising. Though it began the season docked six points, barreled from the FA Cup and fined £1.5 million (\$2.3 million) for making irregular payments to players, Sugar brought out his legal guns to have the first two punishments quashed. Simultaneously, he sacked his chosen manager, Osvaldo Ardiles, because the team's style was too cavalier to be consistent. Under the replacement, Gerry Francis, the same team is more pragmatic, more of a unit, more inclined to attack only once the defense is sound. It has passed Arsenal in the standings, and admirers say this proves that the Englishness of Francis works better than the Latin approach of Ardiles.

However, Tottenham's components are cosmopolitan. The winning goal, the only goal, came from Gica Popescu, a Romanian. Tottenham's attack was boldly led by a German, Jürgen Klinsmann. Its wing thrusts came from the speedy Israeli Ronny Rosenthal. And defense harbored a Scot, Colin Calderwood.

Arsenal? Alas poor Arsenal. Its manager, George Graham, tries daily to deny accusations that he took (later repaid) £285,000 as an "unsolicited gift" or favor to sign a Dane, John Jensen. The case is under investigation, as are 23 other transfers between Scandinavia and England involving one of those lovely gentlemen, a soccer agent. And as it happened, Jensen scored a Christmas goal, his first in 98 Arsenal appearances. But not against Tottenham; there he was efficient in an Arsenal team whose labor pitifully lacks imagination. But Stefan Schwarz, Arsenal's Swedish midfielder, made an ugly mark. He was sent off for two mean fouls.

Just how well that went down with the drinks in the Caribbean we don't know. It does seem typically British that the owners found warmth while the masses paid as much as £40 for the privilege of catching a cold.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of The Times.



FUN TIME — Boris Becker and Anke Huber, having won both singles, eased up as they put Germany into the Hopman Cup semifinals by defeating Austria, 2-1, in Perth, Australia. They next face France, which upset third-seeded Spain, 3-0.

Hong Kong Amateur Gets 2 Holes-in-One

Reuters

HONG KONG — A amateur woman golfer with a 24-stroke handicap has gotten two holes-in-one in the same round.

Sonya Osgood aced the 108-meter (118-yard) eighth hole with a six-iron on Monday at the Arnold Palmer-designed Chung Shan Hot Springs Golf Club in southern China, the South China Morning Post reported Wednesday.

She then aced the 79-meter (86-yard) 17th hole, using an eight-iron.

"I couldn't believe it when it happened and I still can't," she said.

Osgood was fortunate she did not achieve her feat in Japan, where golfers scoring a hole-in-one are expected to give gifts to all witnesses. Many golfers there take out hole-in-one insurance.

Autissier's Rescue: Who Pays?

Agence France-Presse

SYDNEY — Australia will make no attempt to recover the cost of the huge air-and-sea operation involved in rescuing the French yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier, a government minister said Wednesday.

As controversy continued over who is to pick up the bill, estimated at up to 2 million Australian dollars (\$1.6 million), the acting defense minister, Gary Piml, said his country was merely fulfilling its obligations as a good international citizen and had no intention of asking anyone else to pay.

"Australia is not only morally obliged to pick up sailors in distress in our waters, but also under the safety-of-lives-at-sea convention, an international convention, Australia is legally obliged to do so," he said.

"I think we have to not lose sight, as we count the dollars in the aftermath of a very successful rescue, of the fact that we are obliged to save people at sea, just as other maritime nations are obliged to rescue Australians and other people in trouble in their seas."

Pim said Australia would be "pretty shocked" if it received a bill from another country for such a rescue.

Autissier, competing in the BOC Challenge for solo sailors, had to be winched by helicopter from the deck of her yacht, the Ecureuil Poitou Charentes II, after it was demolished. The controversy has not evolved over the cost of the rescue, but the view of some people that the race sponsors rather than Australian taxpayers should foot the bill.

Autissier, asked about the matter at a news conference, replied uncomfortably, "I don't think anybody should speak about that because when you are rescuing a human life you cannot speak about money."

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ART BUCHWALD

One More for the Road

WASHINGTON — Ralph Dweck and I were watching the TV evening news when a story attracted our attention concerning the drinking habits of college students.

The announcer said that a recent survey showed that nearly half of U.S. college students were "binge" drinkers, and they are responsible for all sorts of mayhem on campus and on the roads.

The program then panned to a bar where a bunch of college students were drinking up a storm and hammering it up for the cameras.

One student, who wasn't too steady on his feet, said, "Why do college students drink? We drink to forget."

I chuckled and whispered, "Ah, youth."

Ralph yelled, "What are you laughing for? That kid is probably a future engineer who could be responsible for designing an airplane de-icer that doesn't work."

I said, "You're overreacting. Ralph. All they are doing is kicking up their heels after exams before they go home to kick up their heels for the holidays."

Ralph said, "See the girl next to him laughing hysterically? I'll bet she's planning on becoming a surgeon, and I will get you to her if she'll leave a forceps in somebody's stomach."

"I have more confidence than you do in our college youth. I've seen them at football games and their behavior is impeccable — except when they keep falling down."

The screen showed six stu-

dents pounding their chests and making faces at the lens.

Ralph stared at the set intently. "I can't decide which one will work on nuclear power, which one will screw up a crucial computer chip and which one will lose a union's entire pension fund by betting the wrong way on pork belly futures."

I tried to be impartial.

"Not all the inebriated students we see will have influential positions that could harm society. Some might go into politics and, instead of beer, they'll be drinking Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch, paid for by a lobbyist who knows a lurch when he sees one."

The news program switched to another bar where a bunch of college students were squirming at each other.

I wondered if I should be alarmed by what I was seeing.

I thought maybe they were studying to be lawyers so the more time they spent in bars now, away from their books, the less chance they'll have of doing damage in court later on.

This scene continued for a few more moments and then the anchorman went to his next story. He said that another recent survey by the Educational Testing Service revealed that college students were not really very literate. In fact, more than 50 percent of them could not read a bus schedule.

I knew Ralph would jump on this, so I said defensively, "I don't believe that there is any connection between drinking and illiteracy."

"You're right," Ralph said. "If the network had been fair it would have mentioned the 50 percent of kids who could read a bus schedule instead of the 50 percent who couldn't."

WEATHER

Europe

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by Accu-Weather.



North America

Temperatures will be near normal in most areas.

A storm will sweep across the Great Lakes on Friday and Saturday, with some snow or ice farther north in Philadelphia and north in New York City and Boston. The weather in Hong Kong will be mainly dry through Sunday.

Temperatures will be near normal in most areas.

Tem